



Music City road trip

**Peach State Region's
Fall Tour Nov. 13-15**

By Doug Bailey



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

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t's fall in the South! It's sunny and warm! Time to put some miles on those Cadillacs.

The Peach State Region is famous for its heavy schedule of activity. In a typical year, we average two club events per month. We believe in driving our collector cars. Georgia is a terrific place to own a vintage Cadillac, so the Region sponsors both a fall and winter driving tour each year.

We were COVIDed out of our spring tour to Warm Springs, Georgia, the home of FDR's "Little White House." The Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance



THE TOUR GROUP gathers by Mark Wall's 1983 Sedan de Ville near the LARC LX at the Lane Motor Museum in Nashville, Tennessee.



FILL 'ER UP! Buster Miller's 1958 Series 62 Coupe waits for a tank full of hi-test at the faux Texaco station in Cowan, Tennessee.

& Motoring Festival, normally held in November, was canceled for 2020. So, we decided it was time to go to "Music City," Nashville, Tennessee, for our fall tour.

We were "touch and go" about whether to undertake this trip. Other than taking a few daylong caravan tours, Peach State Region members had been holed up in their houses for months. At the time we planned to go, Georgia and Tennessee

had two of the lowest per capita rates of new COVID-19 infections in the nation, well under five percent. We decided to go and try to behave ourselves. In the beginning, 30 folks in a dozen cars said they'd go, but by the time we were gassed up, the group had dwindled to seven cars and 18 people. The rest had more sense!

We met early on Friday, Nov. 13, in north Georgia at our usual rally spot,

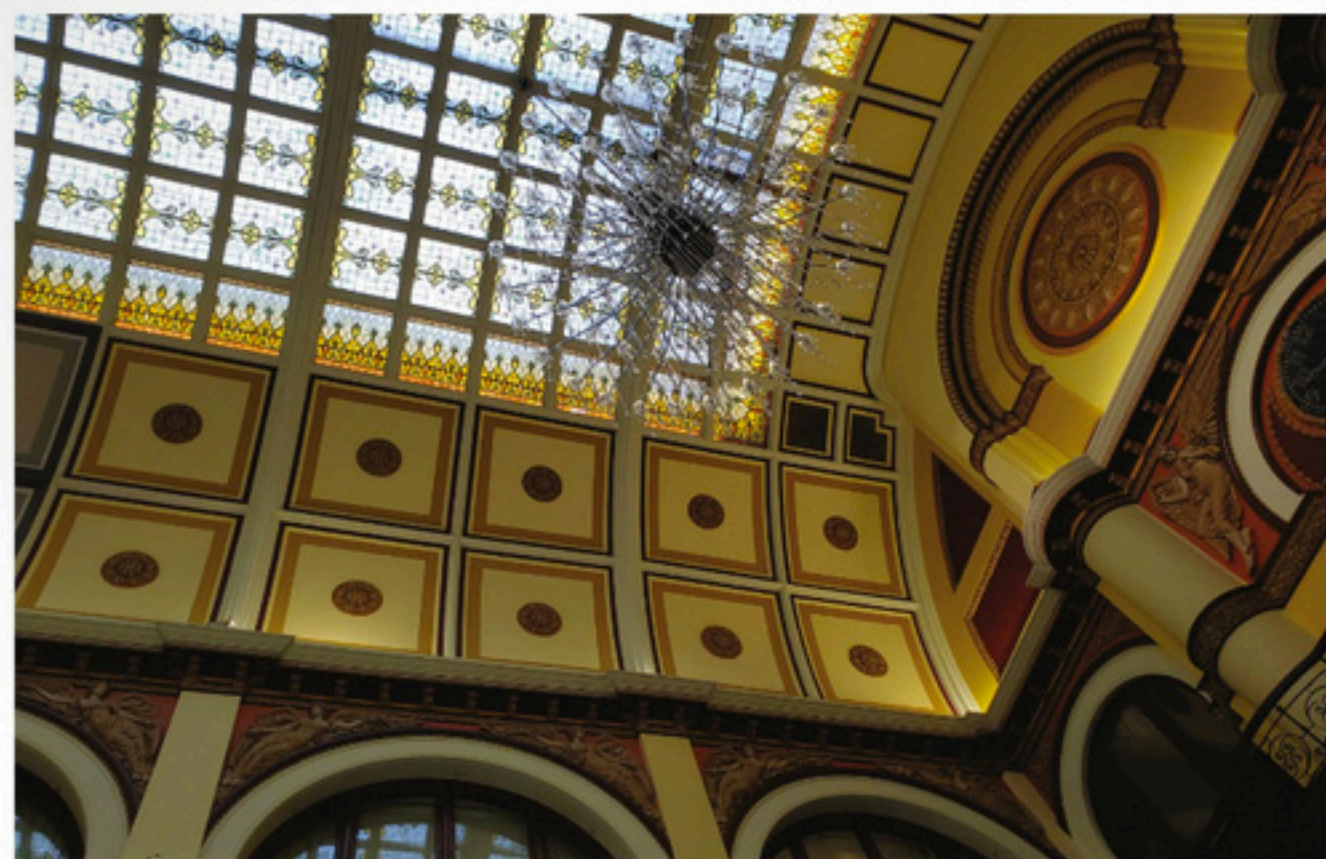
the Harley-Davidson shop in Cartersville, Georgia. Wheels up at 9:30 a.m.

The first stop was almost two hours later at Monteagle, Tennessee, on top of a mountain. All gassed up, we headed southwest for Cowan, Tennessee, taking curving back roads and enjoying golden forests for an hour! We stopped in Cowan for a photo op in front of an ancient Texaco station. Buster and Kim



THIS PAGE, FROM THE TOP:

Eddie Bibb drove his 1968 DeVille Convertible all the way from Alabama to participate in the tour. ¶ The former Union Station in Nashville is now a grand hotel in the city's historic downtown. ¶ Doug Bailey and the "Jolly Green Giant" with the massive LARC LX.



OPPOSITE PAGE, LEFT: Sitting atop the Acropolis in Nashville is a full-scale replica of the legendary Parthenon.

OPPOSITE PAGE, RIGHT: The goddess of Victory, Nike, rests in the hand of a massive statue of Athena inside the Parthenon.





Miller "fueled up" their black 1958 Series 62 Coupe at an old, dry gas pump.

On to historic Lynchburg, Tennessee, the home of Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey. By the time we rolled into town, taking the walking tour would have had the group pulling into Nashville traffic after dark. Instead, we enjoyed a great barbecue lunch outdoors, and then walked around the square, shopping and eating Tennessee spicy fudge. We took a group shot in front of the town jailhouse, begging for bail money.

Back in the cars, we drove by the George Dickel distillery and then headed out past some great old horse farms—the home of the Tennessee Walkers. When we hit Nashville's rush hour traffic, many of us swallowed hard and put our heads down, but we made it to the Union Station Hotel in great shape. The Union Station is an historic preservation site, and, when you enter that lobby, it takes your breath away. We had drinks in the lobby because everyone was too bushed to venture down to Broadway's Music Row that evening.

On Saturday morning, a few folks drove over to Opryland for a backstage

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tour. The rest of us took a downtown driving cruise, trolling for a “thumbs up” or two. We rolled around Broadway and Capitol Hill with the tops and windows down. People were already partying at 10 a.m., and every honky tonk was blaring local country and western music.

Across the freeway, we drove past Vanderbilt University and found Centennial Park, where a remarkable tribute to Athens’ Parthenon sits on an Acropolis of its own. We entered as a group, masked up and socially distanced. The magnitude of this monument was awe-inspiring. The statue of Athena with the Goddess of Victory, Nike, in the palm of her hand, boggled the mind. This was a nice walk with architectural and historical significance. It doesn’t get better than that, and we would highly recommend that you visit this when in Nashville.

After Mikey Anderson fished his keys out of his locked 1964 Fleetwood, “Jolene,” we drove over to the Nashville Farmers’ Market for lunch, which had a wide range of ethnic food establishments, with picnic tables we could use to dine outdoors. After lunch, we ran back to the hotel to gather up the others for our afternoon tour.



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The road trippers

Here's a list of who participated on the Fall Tour and what they drove:

- **Tom DiNucci**,
Lake Arrowhead, Georgia
- **Nicole Cunningham**, South Carolina
- **Lori Grinnell**, Augusta, Georgia
1957 Sedan de Ville —
“Geraldine/Mary Jean”
- **Buster and Kim Miller**
with mom **Judy**,
Chatsworth, Georgia
1958 Series 62 Coupe — “Patsy”
- **Mike and Michelle Anderson**,
Cohutta, Georgia
1964 Fleetwood — “Jolene”
- **Doug and Barb Bailey**,
Roswell, Georgia
1966 Eldorado — “Jolly Green Giant”
- **Eddie Bibb**, Birmingham, Alabama
1968 DeVille Convertible
- **Mark Nichols and Herman Runyan**,
Buford, Georgia
1976 Fleetwood Talisman
- **David and Jody Wall** with guests
Rick and Jan Hames and **Donna Tucker**,
Clarkesville, Georgia
1983 Sedan de Ville

We drove a few minutes to the Lane Motor Museum, home to some of the cutest and some of the ugliest cars you have ever seen. Think of microcars like the 1958 BMW Isetta, 1960 Heinkel, or 1960 Messerschmitt. I got a shot of the "Jolly Green Giant," my 1966 Fleetwood Eldorado Convertible, parked next to the LARC LX, the museum's largest vehicle. David Wall's silver 1983 Sedan de Ville and Eddie Bibb's 1968 DeVille Convertible were also photographed near the LARC LX.

On Saturday evening, a couple of hardy folks took off down Broadway for some honky tonkin'. But most of us stayed high and dry right there in the lobby of that grand old hotel. Great times!

On Sunday morning, we departed later in the morning, and headed back towards Cartersville, Georgia, at our own pace. When all was said and done, we had logged well over 600 miles round trip toward our CLC touring badges. Thank you, Stephen Page, CLC touring program host and Peach State Region member! ■

Doug Bailey of Roswell, Georgia, is the director of the Peach State Region.



A ROUGHER, TOUGHER BAND of outlaws and scofflaws you will never find, now released from the Lynchburg/Moore County Jail Museum, to play havoc on the unsuspecting townspeople.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Members of the Peach State Region enjoy a delicious barbecue dinner in Lynchburg, Tennessee, a town well known for its liquid libations.

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