

# ALABAMA

**A**GRICULTURE

**L**OGGING

**A**FRICAN AMERICAN'S

**B**APTIST CHURCH'S

DOLL**A**R STORES

**M**OBILE HOMES

**D****A**MS



**DAY Six Driftwood RV Fairhope to Hubbard's Landing CG Stockton AL**

**April 10/08 Thursday D 87 km M 46.9 A 15.3 T 5h 42 TT7h45 total 492.26km**

**Wind** Nice tail wind most of the day

**Temp** Hot too hot and muggy; 28C most of day with 99% humidity and threat of rain

**Road Condition** Good best part 225 with little traffic

**Food: Breakfast** Apples, cottage cheese and cheese [Ken]

**Lunch** Finally found a bench beside a closed ice cream shop! Tomato/Avocado sands were yummy

**Supper** Ken used the boiler once more for soup and had sands also

**Accommodation** What a nice spot right on the Tensaw Lake, which is in flood! Not to worry it isn't expected to rise more tonight although they keep coming down and checking it out! The lovely gentle man who "checked" us in would not take any money !.... Angel #2 on our trip so far. Said he had 30 tents here last week [was a charity ride] and "We're just glad to have you-all" Jim and Harold Bryars own this spot: started 1950 as fishing camp



**Overall:** Well I think the flat lands are over. Not to hilly, but up and down all day .... Down to a creek bed... up to the hill top and over and over again. Saw a wild turkey just standing at the side of the road. Lots of "bush", lots of suburbia. The soil is bright red! Why I have no idea. Everything seems to grow in it! Even the clover is red!



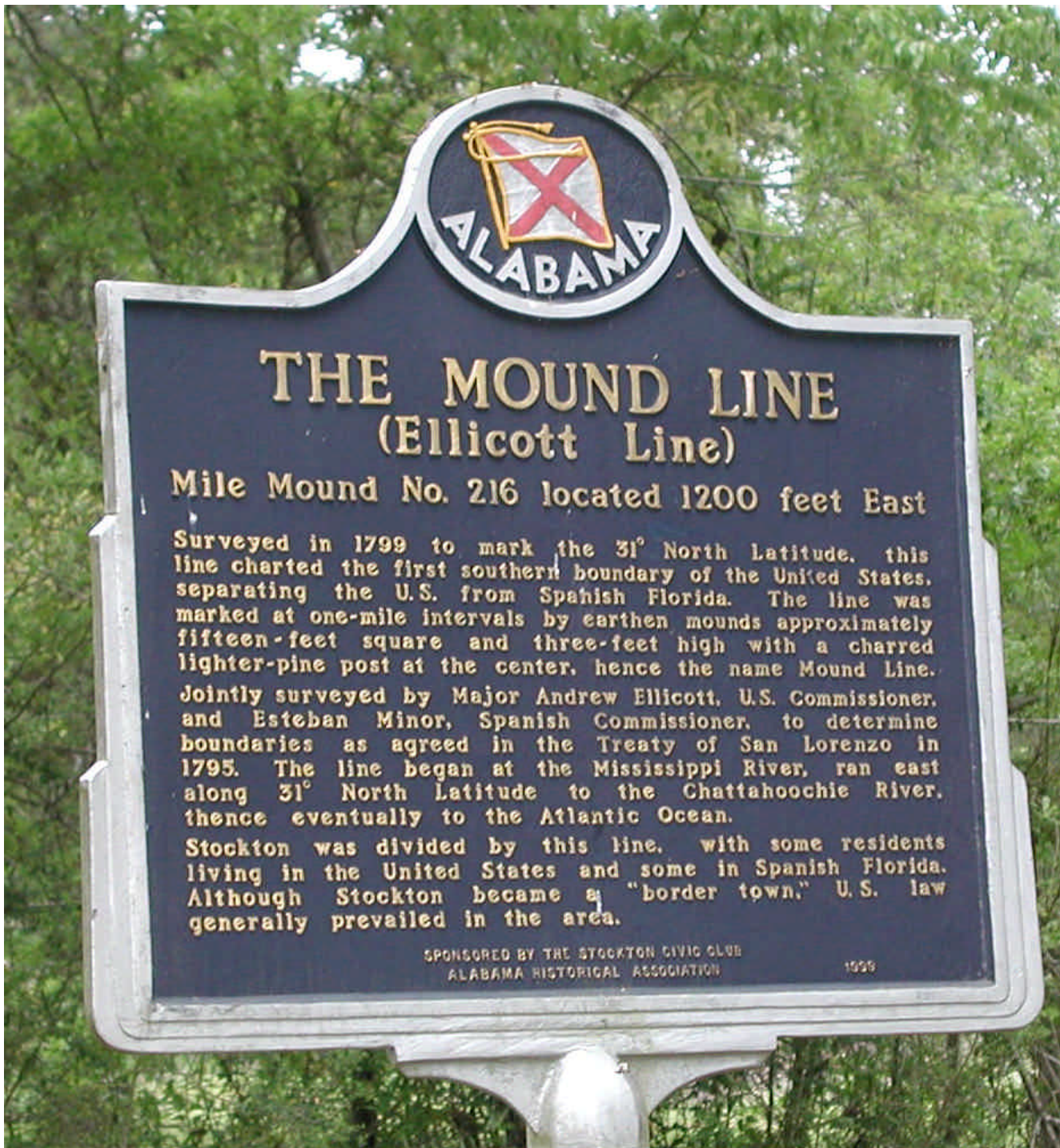
This place is like being in a jungle movie... the birds are "crooing", Owls hooting, wind blowing and river flowing... It's a symphony of natural

sounds... no cars... no motors just nature! Another bit of paradise... I

could have a cabin here. And it's not far from Mobile Alabama.

Sights: well raccoons, armadillos [don't think I've seen a live one ever], deer, black snakes [glad they are dead!] Hugest Moth ... 6 inches wing span! In the men's bathroom thank goodness or I wouldn't have had a shower! We only had a gecko!





This was very interesting. We didn't see any mounds but this is the same line as by Thomasville FL DAY 6 Driftwood RV park(Magnolia Springs) to Hubbards's Landing CG & Cabins (Stockton Alabama) 88.1

Head northwest on US-98 toward McKenzie Rd	5.4 km	5.4 km
Continue on US-98-ALT	15.7 km	21.1 km
Turn left at CR-98-SCENIC/N Section St/US-98-ALT Cont to follow US-98-ALT	2.7 km	23.8 km
Turn left at Main St	10.0 km	33.8 km
8.7km on Main cut thru to walmart on Chateauquay Dr or Jaskson SQ <b>Daphne</b>		
Turn left at CR-11/N Main St	0.9 km	34.7 km
Turn left at Academy Dr	0.2 km	34.9 km

Turn right at US-98 W	3.1 km	38.0 km
Turn right at US-31 N	0.4 km	38.4 km
Turn left at AL-225/Blakely	38.6 km	77.0 km
Turn left at AL-59-Latham rd ( <b>Stockton G/R/SS</b> )	9.1 km	86.1 km
Turn left at CR-96-Hubbard Landing Rd	2.0 km	88.1 km

Hubbard Landing 251-931-5736 Hubbard Landing Rd Minnette

Windwood Inn Bay Minette 610 MCMEANS AVE. Bay Minette, AL 36507 (\$49.00-\$55.00)

Bay Minette Days Inn 1819 Hwy. 31 South Bay Minette, Alabama AL 36507(\$56.70-\$63.00)

## **DAY Seven Hubbard's Landing CG Stockton AL to Deavers Motel Grove Hill AL April 11/08 Friday D 108.28 km M51.6 A14.4 T 7h32 TT9.5h total 600.55km**

DAY 9 Hubbards's Landing CG & Cabins (Stockton Alabama) to Deaver's Motel (Grove Hill Alabama) 107

Head east on CR-96 toward AL-59	2.0 km	2.0 km
Turn left at AL-59	32.3 km	34.3 km
at 27KM on AL-59 ----- <b>Little River</b> (G/SS)		
Turn left at CR-8	9.1 km	43.4 km
Continue on CR-1	26.6 km	70.0 km
Turn left at US-84 ----- <b>Perdue Hill</b> (G/SS)	35.6 km	105.6 k
Turn right at S Jackson St --- <b>Grove Hill</b> (AS)	1.2 km	106.8 k
From Monroeville, AL, travel 8 miles north on State Route 41 to County Road 17 west. Follow signs into the campground. Making it on the east side of lake phone day before for reserve site[~14km Gosport turn rt on 39 .4mi; Lt gosport Rd 3.3mi Rt Westlock Dam Site Rd .4mi .. rd turns lt 1.3 mi <b>Isaac Creek CG</b> 251 282-4254 \$14 ? on west side of lake] I think this is wrong		

Deaver's Motel 141 S Jackson St Grove Hill, AL 36451 (251) 275-3218

Timberland Motel 402 Jordan St Grove Hill, AL 36451 (251) 847-2206 \$40.00

Windwood Inn of Grove Hill 238 N Jackson St Grove Hill, AL 36451 (251) 275-4121

**Wind** mostly a tail wind

**Temp** 20C in am heated up quickly to 30C with 99% humidity; HOT HOT: Tornado watch when we got into town

**Road Condition** Hwy 59 had a shoulder with a deep rumble strip taking up 1/2 of it; CR8/1 was quiet but hilly++; Then on to US84 which was with a shoulder with a minor rumble strip but +++ truck traffic especially loggers who moved over when ever they could

**Food: Breakfast** Pears, cottage cheese and cheese [Ken]

**Lunch** on a creek bridge.... Coleslaw, tomatoes and bread; Ken ate a PB sand with his coleslaw

**Supper** Well went out between rain thunder showers for grilled cheese and yam fries... this is a "dry" town and maybe county so no cool beer after a very long hot ride. Diet Mountain Dew hit the spot anyways

**Accommodation** Well we had the choice of 3 motels, but only one right in town so Deavers it was. Clean, very cheap and has been here thru many a tornado, so we thought that says something for it. The king size bed is over kill as both of us are so tired I don't even think we can make it to watch any tv.

**Overall:** Pretty well have said it all. No services until Little River at 27km, then really nothing but a service station with a whole wall of different types [25] of chewing tobacco! And a fried chicken, etc take out place. Picked up some coleslaw, which was a little heavy on the mayo. Longest, hardest day we have had so far this trip. My left arm bruise is completely around the wrist and to the elbow... hope I haven't a crack fracture... sure hurts going over the rumble strips. I'm peeling and blistering.... Oh isn't life fun.

This was really a cool spot... a BAMBOO forest just along the way... I'm sure bamboo is not supposed to be grown in Alabama USA! But here it was!

The tv has a flood alert and Tornado watch for tonight. It really poured twice so far with very close lightening. We will have to check if Coffeerville campsite is going to be open after this storm.

Just a note about Alabamians... we were warned that they are a bunch of "red-necks".... Now they do drive trucks, but we have met nothing but nice friendly helpful people.



**DAY Eight Deavers Motel Grove Hill AL Rest Day**  
**April 12/08 Saturday D 0 km M A T h TTh total km**

**Wind** lots over night

**Temp** cooler

**Road Condition** walked all over town

**Food: Breakfast** Apples with cereal and cheese [Ken]

**Lunch** cheese tortillas

**Supper** Baked potatoes with chili Mexican beans over

**Accommodation** Turned out well We discovered we had internet so got caught up with all our emails

**Overall** Decided due to the storms to lay over here another day and divert straight north tomorrow. Quiet day walking about town. This is a "dry" town so did the laundry, went to the museum looking for information on the underground railway [woman said she learned about it in school, but had no information] and then vegged out watched old movies, knit and read



## DAY Nine Deaver's Motel to Chickasaw State Park [Linden AL]

April 13/08 Sunday D 76.04 km M43 A15.6 T4h52 TT7h total 676.59 km

**Wind** mild head wind

**Temp** cooler morning... 10C then got up to only 20C with attempts at rain once in camp

**Road Condition** Good shoulder on 43 to Thomasville then no shoulder on 13, but traffic light then back to a shoulder after Linden

**Food: Breakfast** tangerines with cereal and cheese [Ken]

**Lunch** stopped for a coffee at Thomasville then lunch late at Linden

**Supper** later after a nap we had our veggie soup

**Accommodation** Nice little site beside the road with covered shelters with lights No showers but flush toilets. Well used by locals during the day

**Overall** Nice rolling hills day uneventful other than no picnic spots so went until 2pm before stopped for lunch. I get really grouchy when I'm hungry! Anyways everyone is really friendly and slows down if unable to pass us with lots of room. We have been really pleased with the locals. Lots of "Blacks" in towns. Grove Hill had a parade to start off baseball season yesterday morning and almost all the floats were Hispanic or Black children and lots of teams. Didn't seem to be that big a town, but must have been 15 or more teams. They were so cute throwing candy off the floats to everyone on the street. Lots of logging and reforestation going on here. The shoulder or road edge is littered with bits of bark etc... I don't think they can let that much fall off the trucks in Canada. Also the size of the trees are just maybe 8" diameter at most.... Not very large at all.

Cooling off rapidly tonight... supposed to get to 40F or less tonight... bundling up

## DAY Ten Chickasaw State Park [Linden AL] to Jennings Ferry Park [Eutaw AL]

April 14/08 Monday D70.85 km M40.7 A14.3 T5h TT7h total 747.44 km

**Wind** North west head wind not nice!

**Temp** COLD especially at 5C first thing this morning and 10C most of the day with threats of rain

**Road Condition** good, but lousy shoulder or none with traffic

**Food: Breakfast** yogurt/ apple/banana and cheese [Ken]

**Lunch** stopped for coffee and a bun at Hardees then lunch wraps by a "ranch" gate

**Supper** Really yummy bow pasta with red sauce and cheese via Sue with the Kelly kettle

**Accommodation** Jennings Ferry park \$18. on Warrior Lake and Clear creek [a US Army corps of Engineers CG] Very clean with hot showers. Lots of caravans 52 sites with over 1/2 full. Meet a couple who retired last fall and have been on the road, in a large unit pulling a car with 2 bikes and a canoe on it, ever since. They may have left New Hampshire, but they didn't leave many of the comforts of home there.... Satellite dish, bus like unit, etc.

**Overall** Started out a little cool at 5C [10C in the tent...both warm overnight] should have geared up with long pants on but stuck with shorts and found it a little brisk. Ken heard coyotes in the night howling. Decided to change the route as 13/43 has a shoulder... well didn't turn out to have one all the way, but not too bad. Lots of logging trucks, big trucks and cars driving fast, but pulling over well for us. Did hit the ditch once as someone was coming a little too close. Arrived in Demopolis with good time and then the wind came up so slowed us down. Forkland had no services, but we did stand beside a church out of the rain for 10 minutes to keep a little dryer as it isn't really very warm. It is 30 degrees below normal "f" for this time of year... usually in the 70's. Arrived in Eutaw to shop at the Piggly Wiggly... they have a city park but the secretary at the City Hall didn't recommend it as being "safe" to camp there... what that means we aren't sure, but ~8km off route to Jennings Ferry CG which is really nice. The bridges here are really long and start way before the rivers... I guess due to flooding and to keep the roads from washing away. Haven't seen any more alligators, but there is "marsh" and flooded trees all along the road so looks like could be that kind of habitat. The soil must be better the closer we got to Eutaw the larger the farms and more cattle and flatter lands. The beginning of the day was depressing as lots of old rundown mobile homes and houses that don't look safe to live in but are homes. Makes one wonder what the money being spent on the presidential campaign is and if it couldn't be better spent on housing and the minimum wage. That too we wonder what it is as when we were at the Hardees employees were talking and one woman said from her 2 weeks salary, she had \$7 left after paying the rent, telephone/internet bill and electric bill.... Doesn't leave much for groceries! Yet the rigs in this campsite are modern, expensive and towing boats or cars worth lots of money. Also at the Hardees an employee started asking us about our trip and I wish I could have

taken a picture of her face when we told her where we had cycled from and going to.... She was in ah... kind of makes us feel great that we are able to do this. Also later in the day at Eutaw another young woman kept saying .... “No come on where is the car” ... she said due to gas prices rising she was thinking of riding her bike so she had all kinds of questions on how to get started.... “one pedal after another” that’s the answer. Gas prices \$3.24/gallon so not at our prices yet! Note we have found some “angry DOGS” along this way.... Do need to look into a dog tasser whistle!



This was a cool old bridge viewed from the new concrete one. As you can see the center portion lifted up for the boats to go up the river. It looks to be permanently in the up position now. Lots of rivers to cross with guys fishing and little cottages along the sides.

DAY 10 Chickasaw SP CG(linden AL) to Jennings Ferry Park Campground (Eutaw AL) 76.2 km

<u>Off Route from Adventure cycle</u>		
Head south on US-43 toward Providence St	2.2 km	2.2 km
Turn left at AL-69	22.0 km	24.2 km
Turn right at AL-69 N/US-80 E	1.2 km	25.4 km
Turn left at AL-69	24.6 km	50.0 km
Turn left at AL-14/State St <b>Greensboro AS</b>	21.4 km	71.4 km
Slight left to stay on AL-14 Eutaw No Hotels	4.5 km	75.8 km
Turn left at Jennings Ferry Rd	33 m	75.9 km
Turn left to stay on Jennings Ferry Rd	0.3 km	76.2 km

Jennings Ferry Park Campground (205) 372-1217 599 Jennings Ferry Rd, Akron, AL 35441

Greensboro has Dollar General and Fuller's Supermarket

Inn Motel & Restaurant 1302 State St Greensboro, AL 36744 (334) 624-3031

also D'Rays Deli & Grocery 12KM before CG

Eutaw 8km past CG has Piggly Wiggly and Dollar Store

**DAY Eleven Jennings Ferry Park [Eutaw AL] to Pickensville [Corp of Engineers] CG**

**April 15/08 Tuesday D76.32 km M 43.1 A 15.3 T5h TT7h total 823.77km**

**Wind** into the wind once more

**Temp** COLD on rising 5C but did warm up today to 20C Clear blue sky

**Road Condition** no shoulder all day with logging trucks, gas trucks, Ford trucks... Lots of trucks, but all great

**Food: Breakfast** in Eutaw as "Fosomax" day yogurt/ apple and cheese [Ken] on the City Hall lawn

**Lunch** nice lazy lunch[cheese enchiladas and fried Ochre] at the Plantation House cafe

**Supper** bows and red sauce once again yummy

**Accommodation** stopped early at a Corps of Engineers Recreation area [national CG] on the Tenn-Tom waterway. Very nice as last night with special post for a lantern, table for coleman stove, fire ring and raised fire stove, picnic table, power and water. Wash house nice with good showers... never enough hooks. \$16.00 is a good price for not another camper on our circle of about 20 sites



I just love these red clovers all along the ditch.

**Overall** left at 0830 to have breakfast in town as need ½ hour after Fosomax and oh oh I forgot to take it until sitting down for breakie! I guess my bones aren't too fragile or I would have broken my arm when I fell last week... it is ridiculously bruised and to a disgusting "mud" color now so on the mend. Anyways looked for a post card for Dagny in Eutaw....non to be found. Must look up Eutaw on the internet. It is full of old houses restored. Don't know what the occupations are. Cycled on to "Clinton" thought I would get one there... no such luck. Did try the post office as I remember last year getting ones with a stamp prepaid on it... all out because postage is going up first of May! The post mistress said it will break the small post offices as they can barely make ends meet now... have reduced the hours to 4 hours per day 4 days a week, but more small places will no longer have counter service. In Pleasant Ridge stopped at an interesting store.. It is a "package" store... which means liquor store with a twist... he sells booze but also has a license to let people drink in the store, but he can not mix the drinks or serve by the glass. He said the next county up is a "dry" county [90% of Alabama is Dry] so he gets a lot of customers from Over the line so to speak... I don't know if that makes for less drinking or not. When we asked yesterday about staying at the city park we were told "it wouldn't be safe" anyways an interesting fellow said he was 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Confederate REBEL. Very chatty. Has his "store" for sale as he says his wife is tired of it, but with the economy the way it is nothing is selling. He also had some interesting ideas on the Presidential candidates.... Obama... he thinks is Muslim so no one in the south will vote for him and Clinton... well not a woman president for sure so... no choices.

Day 11 Jennings Ferry Park Campground (Eutaw AL) Pickinsville 77km

Head west on Jennings Ferry Rd toward Roebucks Landing Rd	0.3 km	0.3 km
Turn right to stay on Jennings Ferry Rd Blackwater River	33 m	0.4 km
Turn left at AL-14	7.9 km	8.3 km
Turn left at Tuscaloosa St/US-11/US-43 <b>Eutaw AS</b> 10km to City Hall	0.3 km	8.6 km

Continue on AL-14/Main St	0.5 km	9.1 km
Turn left at AL-14/Mesopotamia St [39k Pleasant Ridge store]	42.8 km	51.9 km
Turn left at AL-14/AL-17 Aliceville AS back on Adv Cycle	0.5 km	52.4 km
Turn right at 2nd St NW/AL-14 @15km Pickensville G/R/SS Corps CG	31.0 km	?? 83.4 km



This is very typical of the housing we have seen, most of it in more disrepair than this one.



Off we went to Aliceville where there was a German POW camp 1941-45 The museum looked interesting, in a depressing way so we skipped it and went to the **Plantation House** instead. Really cool old house that really wasn't on a plantation.. is was a lumber mill owners home... built over 2 years... 1902-4. Had neat ceilings.... Like parkay floors.. looked like made from hockey sticks laminated together... walls the same thin strips of wood... needs a lot of work. This man who was the "cashier"? owner [80] told us about it being move about 8 blocks to it's current location

in 1986 They had to rebuild the porches but other wise moved a 2 story huge house. It was refreshing to meet a man of his age who was so keen to know where we were going etc We definitely are an oddity in this area. An other person at the restaurant was very interested an kept asking questions until he finally asked our ages... he was 60 and is planning a cycle [motorcycle] trip to Canada later this summer as he just retired. He asked us about if we carried a gun. He said they always carry one motorcycling... unloaded with the bullets separate. He said Congress is going to vote on allowing if you have a permit to carry a handgun in one state that you can carry it into other states when visiting. Ken and I discussed this and now we are worried people think we are carrying a gun! I now have my \$40 back in my shoe!



I'm not sure who I'm sitting next to... it could be one of those wax figures... Ken decided to pop a candy in his mouth just as the picture was taken! Anyways this is us!

I guess I better start taking more pictures!

Well that was Alabama... on to Mississippi

We left there and went on down the road with logging trucks etc past reforested areas, over rivers, past farms and more modest homes. One car just pulled up beside Ken, rolled down the window and started asking questions about where we were going... Mean while I'm watching for logging trucks! I also want to check up on the demographics [?] of race of the population of Alabama... mostly African Americans, few East Indians, some Caucasians, no Japanese, Mexicans, or Cantonese This is in Rural Alabama anyways... would be interesting to see who close we are to the real numbers. Well we came to Pickensville which is just 2 gas stations with a few groceries and lots of liquor and we noticed the campsite sign so as we need to find a bike shop for bike wax tomorrow in Columbus, Mississippi we decided to use up one of our extra days and spend tomorrow in Columbus. Just another note: they sure love to fish here! And I saw a postcard I should have bought that said the State bird is a Mosquito! Tonight we are killing lots of those birds! We saw in the paper that water isn't on ration, but asking people to conserve yet water seems to be everywhere as far as we can see!

