

CAMPBELL COUNTY, TN – DRIVING TOUR ANALYSIS

Coming down I-75 and crossing into Tennessee, I stopped at the State Welcome Center. They had no brochures on Campbell County. I asked if they had anything on La Follette and they said no. Nor did they have anything on Caryville or Jacksboro (two other cities in Campbell Co). I asked if they had anything on the lakes and they said yes and gave me a brochure on Norris Lake. At the front desk, they also had pull off maps of the lake which they gave to me as well.



Please note: They also had nothing on Scott County and never even mentioned the Big South Fork as being in the area although I saw numerous official signs for it as I headed south on I-24.



This sign is before one crosses the State line which takes one to the Big South Fork through McCreary County KY.



After one crosses into Tennessee, all Big South Fork signs direct people to take Exit 141



My first stop was Jellico who had a wonderful sign as one entered their community which directed people one mile for tourist information. I drove over one mile, circled the downtown area and never saw another directional sign nor did I ever find the Office of Tourism.



Three other signs as one entered Jellico

At Exit 11 in Jellico there were also two gas stations, a hotel, fireworks stand and a couple of fast food restaurants. There may have been more but I was more focused on finding the tourism office and upon not finding it, left Jellico and headed on down I-75.



There were two or three large signs along I-75 within a span of about 10 to 15 miles noting that Exit 141 was the turn off for Big South Fork National Recreation Area.



Also noted at Exit 141 was the Royal Blue WMA – OHV recreation area.



At Exit 141 at Hwy 63 was noted as the turn off for both Oneida (Scott County) and Huntsville. After turning onto Hwy 63 and heading west, I discovered it was also called Big South Fork Parkway and was designated a Scenic Byway. Also at this exit was a Comfort Inn, two gas stations, two firework stands, and both Subway and Perkins restaurants.



Sign as one takes I-75 at Exit 141



Sign denoting Hwy 63 as Big South Fork Parkway



The bird is Tennessee's symbol for designated state scenic byway

Continuing south on I-75, the next exit one comes to is 134 which promoted both Cove Lake State Park, the Cumberland Gap and Justin P. Wilson Cumberland Trail (Linear) State Park.



These were the two signs one saw as they exited I-75 at Exit 134. To the right was a Super 8, a Shoney's and a Budget Host. If one turned left there was Thacker's Christmas Inn & Restaurant, a gas station, a fireworks stand and a Waffle House.



Turning east onto Hwy 25w / Hwy 63 one comes to the community of Caryville (pop. 2,258)



One of the welcome signs to Caryville and a view of Cove Lake from Hwy 25/63. Very scenic.



Cove Lake State Park is located on the north side of Hwy 25/63 right next to the road with the entrance within a mile of I-75. Hwy 25 is a Blue Ribbon Highway dedicated to those who served in the armed forces.



Directional signage noted a marina and boat storage three miles south of Hwy 25 and 63 on Ridge Road

1.5 miles to the southeast on Cove Creek was a dam, grist mill and saw mill which was in operation until 1934 and was a whistle stop for the Old Southern Railway. The community ceased to exist when Norris Lake was raised.

The next town one comes to is Jacksboro (*pop. 1,887*) but I never saw a marker for it or any kind of indication that it still existed. At mile marker 30, there was a gas station, Zaxby, Dollar Store, a pizza restaurant and Blockbuster with a Walmart, Goody's, Shoe Store and a few other shops set just off the Hwy 63 (also noted as Appalachian Highway). On the south side of the road was a sign noting a turn off to Indian River Marina at River Road.



At mile marker 29, there was a welcome sign to La Follette (pop. 7,926). On the north side of Hwy 63 one came to some closed shops, an empty Walmart building, a Food City and a Peebles store in a group, then a Taco Bell, Arby, Subway, Krystal, gas station and Pizza Hut from mile marker 29 to 28.



Peebles, Food City and a lot of empty buildings were located to a now empty Walmart Building

On the south side of Hwy 63 from mile marker 29 to 27 there was a gas station, Burger King, KFC, Sharp's Motel & Napoli's Italian Restaurant, a motel that had been converted into a diner and shops, Captain D's, Wendy, a mall with numerous shops including a Family Dollar, a Walgreen and a gas.

From this point eastward, one found very few restaurants still open and any motels converted into shops, laundry mats or closed completely.



Sharp's Motel (mm 27) was the only lodging past this point on Hwy 63. All others had converted into other use such as this one next door that included a real estate agency, diner and a shop or two.



Two of numerous restaurants closed once one drew close to downtown La Follette



Large electrical poles and wires line the north side of Hwy 25/63 as one comes to the turn off on Towe String Road to the airport which also notes a boat launch area on this same road.



At Hunter's Branch Road, there were signs for Cedar Hill Park, Shanghai Resort, Sugar Hollow Dock and Whittman Hollow Marina & Campground.



Interesting Note Unique to the community: Streets are named for the churches that are located along that particular street. If there is more than one church on a road, blue signs are erected for each one.





View looking westward

Two views of downtown La Follette at the Tennessee Road where Hwy 25 separates from Hwy 63 and heads north to Jellico.

Cumberland Trail (Linear) State Park is located just off Hwy 25



At the intersection of Indiana Road



View looking east into downtown La Follette



Two views of downtown La Follette



Another view at the intersection of 1st Street of downtown La Follette, TN



A small park in downtown La Follette.



*This was the only restaurant I noticed downtown.
It is open from 5 am to 2 pm on weekdays
and Saturdays from 5am to noon.*



Both Highway 25W and Hwy 63 were noted as scenic byways.



At the corner of 8th Street, there is a sign for Deerfield Resort, a wedding chapel, two billboards promoting resorts and a directional sign to Sugar Hollow Dock



Wedding Chapel



Sign and billboard just before Long Hollow Road



Here is another restaurant that has closed.



The only restaurants that seem to thrive other than the fast food restaurants on Hwy 24 are an Italian, Japanese and Chinese Restaurant. All others have closed.



Almost all street signs are named for what one will find down that particular road. The Country Club is at the end of this road.



Across the street is a motel that is now closed. A section of it is open and serves as a laundry mat for the area.



City Hall is located at mm 7 on Hwy 63



Valley View Plaza at mm 8 includes a Dollar General, grocery store, floral shop and a few other businesses.



Welcome sign for La Follette at mm 9



Once one leaves La Follette, the area becomes very rural and offers beautiful landscapes.



Wellness Methodist Church

Well Springs, an unincorporated community (mm 15) included a beautiful county church, a closed restaurant that was for sale, a general store and one other business.

The church below is at mm 10.





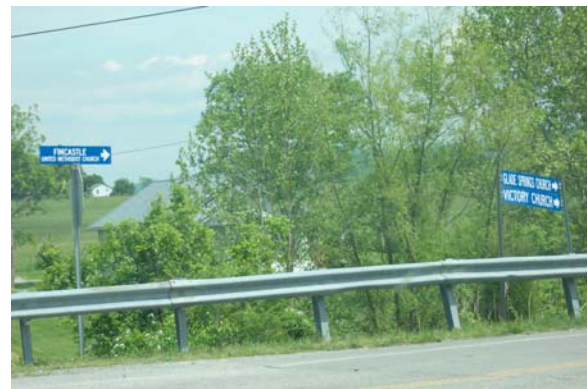
Light House Café is for sale



Crossroads General Store



More breathtaking views along Hwy 63 (mm 16)



There were signs for churches at all intersections



This gas station (mm 17) includes a bait shop, diner, beauty parlor and groceries.

From mm 10 to the county line (mm 19) there is a gas station every 3 to 4 miles. Other than a church at mm 10 and at 15, a bank at mm 12 and two small marine shops/boat stores, there is nothing except beautiful views and a few farms.

These signs indicate that there is both a marina and a church down this road (mm 17)





There are two marine boat shops along Hwy 63. Anchor Marine is at mm 17 and Rex's Marine is at mm 18.



The eastern end of Campbell County begins at mm 19 within the unincorporated community of Wellsprings.