

I wish I could remember where I read it, but someone wrote about our local weather as schizophrenic, which I thought so apropos!! Two days warm and sunny and comfortable...then two days cold and dreary, and it goes on and on! What do you think?

Well, we had a few interesting experiences this month you may enjoy. One was our visit to *Mepkin Abby at Monks Corner, SC*. We had heard about it, and then when Robin McCall arranged a trip there, we signed up. I don't have many pictures of the Abby as photography was not permitted inside. All the more reason to go see for yourself. Mepkin Abby dates back to 1949, when the property was donated by Henry Luce and his wife Claire Booth Luce to be used as an Abby. The property was originally part of the Mepkin Plantation, a rice plantation, located on the Cooper River and established by Henry Laurens in 1762. It currently is a Community of Roman Catholic Monks, that dates back in history to the "Trappists". The man in the middle of the picture with the red plaid shirt was our tour leader, who was with us the whole time. At one point he took us into the church to experience the *mid day prayer service*. The grounds were beautiful. The picture on the upper right is a downed tree that was turned into a large wood carving. There were a few of those around, used to make religious images.

The next treat was when Bob & I witnessed the Carolina Forest High School presentation of the Musical, "Newsies". It is a play based on the true story of the Scrappy Newsboys, led by Jack Kelly of NYC, in 1899 fighting back at the unscrupulous newspaper tycoon, Joseph Pulitzer, for raising prices on local newspapers. They received help from a local reporter, Katherine Plumber, and won. Well, our local Carolina Forest High School Performing Arts put this production on stage and we were all in awe!!!! It did a fantastic job...as always!!

Then there is the Horry County Museum in Conway. Bob & I are members and we usually attend a minimum of one program a week. It is a great place to learn about the history of where we now live. They have great exhibits throughout the museum which change fairly often. They could not possibly put all their local treasures out at once. The third floor is storage for all the extras, but will show up along the way. So if you think you have seen it all, you haven't. Become a member to help the Museum. Even if you are not, they have wonderful free programs every week. You can attend their Wednesday 1:00PM programs free in the auditorium. They have speakers, as well as historical DVD's. If you are a member, you will be invited to special programs, kind of a Meet and Greet with some of the speakers, which usually includes a lunch. This past March, we attended a few events. The picture on the right was taken at The Farm. In the Chapel building, Bob & I listened to Gospel and Blue Grass Music played by very local people. It was so relaxed, with a few people getting up out of the audience, to play and or sing along. As you can see there were several people playing up front, all individuals who came on their own. The room was full of listeners. There are always things going on in other parts of the farm as well. This is a living history farm, where you learn how things used to be.



The picture above was taken on a Wednesday presentation in the Museum Auditorium. Joy Brown spoke, and used her slide show, to demonstrate what her Project accomplishes. For example she shows how they create oyster beds as one of the solutions to help manage coastal erosion. It was quite interesting.