

Carver Museum, which details the achievements of both men; the Oaks, Washington's home as president, where hourly escorted tours are offered; the graves of Washington and Carver, situated on a shady slope next to the Chapel; and a self-guided walking tour of 27 historic buildings.

In the museum, I was intrigued by the Agriculture School on Wheels, a large brown van that toured the Alabama countryside, bringing knowledge of new agricultural techniques to farmers who could not attend the institute. In the beginning, Carver got about in a horse-drawn carriage. At the Oaks, ranger Christine Biggers, the tour leader, noted that Washington always dined formally—and on campus during his tenure, student meals also were formal occasions. In this way, she said, the institute trained the young people in "manners, social skills and personal hygiene."

The visitor center at the museum presents two movies, one focusing on Washington and the other on Carver, and neither should be missed. Under Washington, as the movies point out, a major objective at Tuskegee was to train students in practical skills they could market in the rural South. As part of their instruction, they helped build the campus, which meant making the red bricks used there. But for a time this goal—and Washington himself—became a target of sharp dissent in the black community because, the critics argued, it (and he) slighted the students' intellectual growth.

As we stood on the porch of the Oaks after the tour, I asked Biggers, who is black, what today's students, a majority of whom are black, now think about Washington and his and Carver's work. She answered without a pause: "They think what he did was great." I couldn't have asked for a more upbeat ending to my Alabama drive.

ALABAMA WAYS & MEANS

GETTING THERE: To explore northeastern Alabama, I flew into Huntsville and out of Montgomery. But to save on the cost of a rental car drop-off charge, you could easily plot a loop drive covering the same territory from either Huntsville, Birmingham or Montgomery—depending on which destination gives you the best air fare.

Huntsville is served from the Washington area by American, Delta, Northwest and US Airways. US Airways, which offers some nonstop commuter flights out of Washington National, currently is quoting a round-trip fare of \$209, based on a 21-day advance purchase.

WHEN TO GO: Spring through fall. I enjoyed early May, because days were sunny and mild and I avoided the summer crowds.

WHERE TO STAY: In northeastern Alabama, four state parks—Lake Guntersville, DeSoto, Cheaha and Lakepoint—offer attractive, moderately priced and conveniently located accommodations in scenic settings. Depending on the resort, you can choose to stay in a hotel room, a chalet or a cabin.

Lake Guntersville and Lakepoint are lake parks with fishing, boating, tennis and a swimming beach. Lake Guntersville, the fanciest of the four, also boasts an 18-hole golf course. DeSoto and Cheaha are mountain parks, although Cheaha does feature a swimmable lake. All four parks operate swimming pools and other resortlike facilities.

Depending on the park, a hotel room for two ranges from \$44 to \$60 a night. For information or reservations, call 1-800-ALAPARK (1-800-252-7275).

WHERE TO EAT: I ate breakfast and dinner daily in the park dining rooms. At Lake Guntersville and Lakepoint, where I stayed,

the decor proved surprisingly elegant and the picture window views were great. Menus stuck to standard fare—steaks, chops, fried chicken, local fish and pasta—simply but tastily prepared. Wine and beer are available. A full meal with salad, dessert, two glasses of wine, tax and tip came to about \$20 to \$22 per person. A fully country breakfast (juice, two eggs, sausage, hash browns, toast, coffee), tax and tip included, was less than \$6 per person.

TRIBUTE TO HOOSIER BOYS' TOWN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to Hoosier Boys' Town as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. In particular, I would like to congratulate Hoosier Boy's Town Executive Director, Anita Dygert-Gearheart, board of directors, staff, and volunteers, who should be proud of the outstanding service their efforts have provided the young people of Indiana's First Congressional District. Hoosier Boys' Town is beginning its 4-day anniversary celebration today on its campus in Schererville, IN. The Hoosier Boys' Town Board of Directors, residents, staff, former residents, friends, and volunteers, have invited the general public to join them in celebrating the organization's 50 years of service and commitment to the communities of northwest Indiana.

Founded in July 1947, Hoosier Boys' Town was established by a beloved priest from East Chicago, IN, Msgr. Michael Compagna, in an effort to help disadvantaged youth fully utilize "their God-given potential." Msgr. Compagna's vision was to create a village composed of small cottages, with facilities offering emotionally disturbed boys a supportive and loving family environment. After 3 years of internal debate, Hoosier Boys' Town became a reality as it opened in the form of a home for disadvantaged boys, where Father Compagna's mission of providing a healthy environment for children in need materialized through the administration's guiding beliefs in individual worth and the value of education and community.

Over the years, Hoosier Boys' Town has upheld Monsignor Compagna's mission through its continued devotion to children at risk of failing in society. The organization currently administers an array of programs geared toward children experiencing problems of neglect, abuse, chemical dependency, abandonment, and learning disability. Countless youths and their families find a caring haven in the community-based residential, educational, and treatment centers of Hoosier Boys' Town, which focus on the enhancement of body, mind, and spirit. Hoosier Boys' Town success in positively changing the lives of young people has not gone unnoticed, for the organization has recently received accreditation of its services by the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children, Inc. Accreditation attests that the services provided by Hoosier Boys' Town fulfill the community's needs in a safe, professional, and quality-conscious manner.

While the progress Hoosier Boys' Town has made from the time of its inception is appar-

ent, the organization is fully aware that a vision for the future is necessary for continued growth and service. Hoosier Boys' Town's vision includes the expressed goal of becoming the premier residential treatment facility in northwest Indiana for children and their families. In order to achieve this goal, the organization is launching its first ever Capital Campaign, which is expected to raise the \$2.5 million needed to build a multipurpose building, serving as both an education and dining facility. Currently, Hoosier Boys' Town educate 40 to 50 young people each day and serves approximately 400 meals daily.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Hoosier Boys' Town on the occasion of its 50th anniversary celebration. The hard work and dedication everyone involved with this distinguished organization has put forth is truly inspirational.

IMMEDIATE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE FACILITATION ACT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, the United States has acted boldly in the pursuit of Middle East peace for several years under two administrations. The Middle East Peace Facilitation Act of 1993 [MEPFA], which allows our Government to recognize the Palestinians, work with them, and provide them the help they need to establish security and work for a peaceful existence with Israel, will expire on August 12.

At this moment, there are quiet efforts to resume constructive diplomacy between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The United States is trying to bridge differences and refocus talks on the true goals first agreed to in the Oslo Accords. However, within the next few days this body is likely to let MEPFA expire while considering whether to cut off all United States assistance to the Palestinians, leaving no incentive to work with our Government to achieve peace. In fact, the expiration of MEPFA will mean that any United States contact with the Palestinian Authority is illegal after August 12.

Rather than completely obstructing our administration at this most crucial stage by punishing the Palestinians, I believe it is in our own best interest to extend MEPFA for another 180 days so we do not risk the loss of peace—or worse yet—the resumption of war.

I am, therefore, introducing a bill with Representative RAHALL to extend MEPFA for 6 months. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill, and if at all possible, for this body to extend MEPFA before we leave for the August recess.

MEPFA was approved by Congress to allow the administration to have the tools it needs to promote peace. It has twice been extended. We must not let this authority lapse.