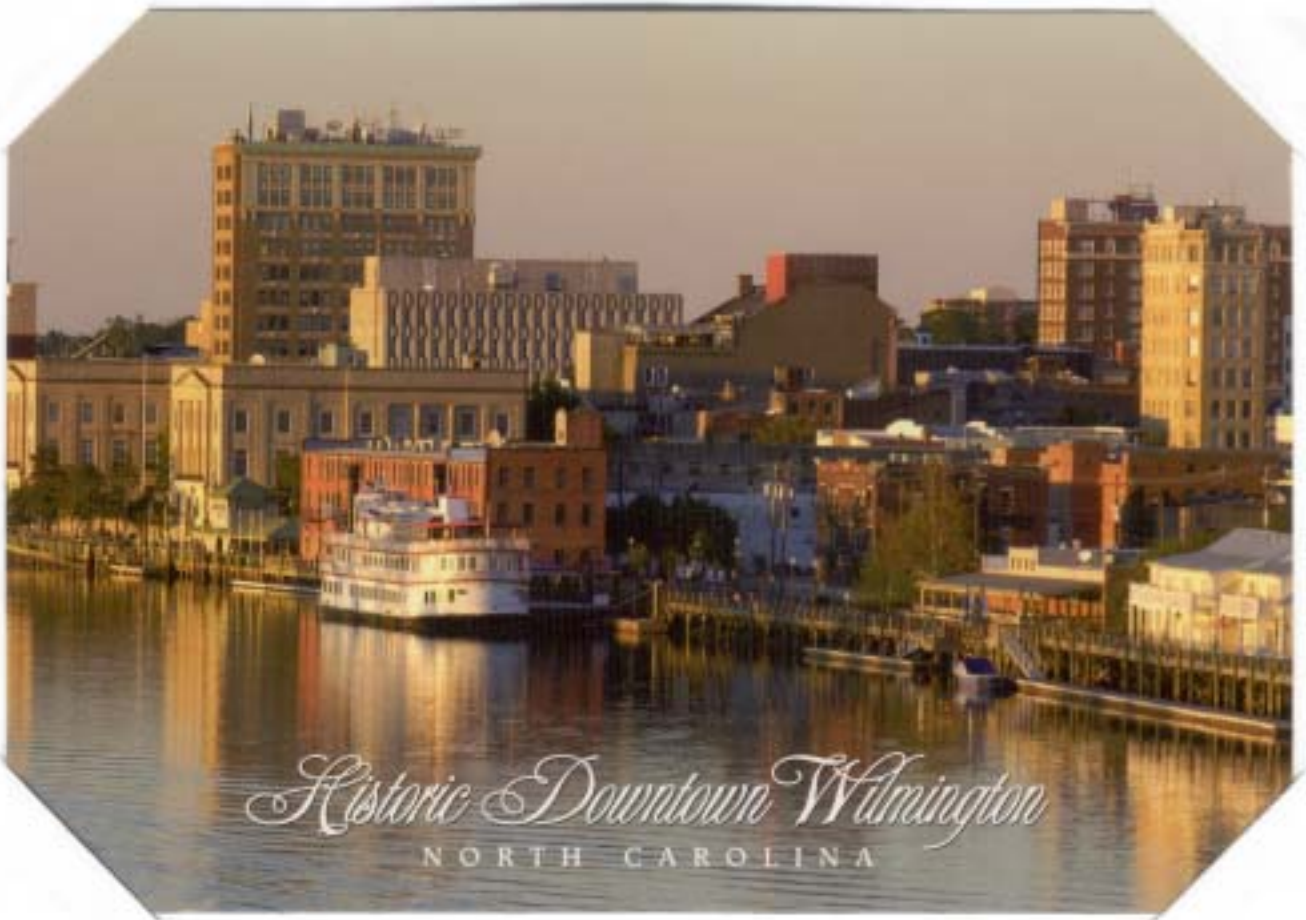


*Flat Harrison*

*Visits*

*Wilmington, North Carolina*







*April 22, 2010*

*Thursday*

*I got to Wilmington in the afternoon and boy was I tired. It was a long trip in an envelope. Wilmington has an Azalea Festival every year the first week end in April. They have all kinds of entertainment and a big parade. But I just missed the festival. The Azaleas were still blooming though.*



*We went downtown to the Cotton Exchange to eat at The German Café. I got a wienerwurst sandwich. It's like a German hotdog.*



*The Cotton Exchange is on the river in downtown Wilmington and it is where bales of cotton were stored to be exported by ship. Now there are shops and restaurants.*



*April 23, 2010*

*Friday*

*Today we went to the Railroad Museum. They have a lot of stuff that was used on trains and at the railroad depots. They also have a big model railroad setup. But the best part was the real train outside.*



*They even had a red caboose.*



*Close to the Railroad Museum was the Whaling Wall. It is a life size painting on the side of a hotel on the river painted by Wyland. He has painted 100 Whaling Walls around the world to raise environmental awareness of the undersea world.*



*Next we took a river taxi across the river to tour the Battleship North Carolina. It was really big and it made me feel really small. It was an important ship during World War II. We got to see where the sailors slept, the kitchen, all the guns, and they even had an airplane on the deck.*



*April 24, 2010*

*Saturday*

*Saturday morning we went to the New Hanover Arboretum. It's a garden. They had a special area just for kids that included a playhouse.*



*I liked climbing on the toadstools.*



*The Arboretum also had a pond with a dragon in it.*



*There were turtles in the pond too. Some of the turtles were bigger than me!*



*I even made a new friend.*



*After lunch (we had pizza) we went to Airlie Gardens. It is an old garden and it had a Live Oak tree that is over 400 years old. It had Spanish Moss hanging from its limbs.*



*There was a chapel at the garden made of bottles that was dedicated to Minnie Evans who was an artist and worked at the gardens as a gatekeeper.*



*The chapel was made of all kinds of bottles and glass.*



*Different artists made things for the chapel including angels  
and a metal tree that stands in the middle of the chapel with  
metal birds in it.*



*Schoolchildren helped make the mosaics that were used for a low wall and as stepping stones.*



*Outside the chapel was a fountain that was just my size for wading.*



*Next we went in the butterfly house. There were lots of butterflies and they would fly right up to you.*



*Airlie is a historic garden and it was big. We had to do a lot of walking and I got tired.*



*April 25, 2010*

*Sunday*

*On Sunday morning we finally got to go to the beach. We went to Wrightsville Beach and it was a long walk through the dunes to get to get to the beach.*



*Once we got to the beach it was great. We had lots of fun playing in the water and the sand. There was a wind blowing and I had a hard time standing up.*



*We had lunch on the beach and then went walking and looking for seashells. We got to stay at the beach a long time.*



*It was a long day but we had lots of fun.*



*Tomorrow I have to leave and we didn't have time to go to the aquarium or visit a historic lighthouse called Old Baldy. I can't wait to come back.*

