MOTOR TRIPS IN AND NEAR DELAWARE

By Murray Mellon
Travel Editor

We enjoyed a pleasant preview of Springtime in Delaware last Wednesday evening when we attended a showing of beautiful color slides presented in Grace Methodist Hall in Georgetown. Sponsored by the Delaware Travel Council, the interesting affair was put on to acquaint Delawareans with the many beautiful and historic places right here in our own state. Speakers pointed out that Delaware also has beautiful old boxwood gardens and lovely spring pageantry. We were reminded that "A Day In Old New Castle" is scheduled Saturday, May 18, and "Old Dover Days" may be enjoyed on May 4 and 5.

Miles Frederick, director of the Delaware State Development Department, told an interesting little story. It seems last summer a family living in Delaware applied to Miles for help about their vacation. They had a very small budget but they liked to travel and see and do things. So a series of one-day tours around the state was set up. Every Saturday for six straight weeks, they left their home about 9 a. m. and spent the day in some interesting part of Delaware. Supper "out" was alway an anticipated part of the holiday pleasure. This family told Miles Frederick they had never enjoyed a better summer vacation program. Where could one go on a one-day trip? Right off, we can think of lots of interesting places like the Henry Francis DuPont Winterthur Museum, historic old New Castle, our pretty capital of Dover, and the seashore resort of Rehoboth Beach. We include Lewes, situated in the mouth of the Delaware Bay with a tradition of the sea dating back to colonial days—and of course there are numerous other places.

Speaking of short motor trips there are many to be enjoyed within Delaware as well as short journeys to the neighboring states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New Jersey. One spring day we are planning to head out on Route 202 and revisit the quaint little town of New Hope, Pa. It is only 47 miles from Wilmington by way of West Chester, Norristown, and Doylestown. This picturesque community on the Delaware River has a delightful charm and if you will walk along the old footpath by the side of the narrow little Delaware Canal that skirts the artists colony you will feel you are in some distant village in Holland.

Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 66 miles from Wilmington, up in the famous Pennsylvania Dutch country is also on our spring tour list. We have asked our Delaware Motor Club friends, AAA, to send us information about Lancaster and we will give you this very interesting report in our column next week. They describe the center of the Pennsylvania Dutch country in York, Lancaster, Chester, Lehigh, and Berks Counties. Routes will be included.

Meanwhile, if you have taken any particularly interesting short motor trips and would like to pass along your information we would enjoy hearing from you. Space will probably not permit publishing your complete letter but we can at least mention your trip with necessary road information. Your name need not be published. Our idea is to try and help the other fellow, perhaps, enjoy a new motor experience. Let's hear from some of our readers.

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Easter Services at Natural Bridge

Several thousand worshipers always attend the beautiful Easter sunrise services at Natural Bridge, Va. This Easter morning the services are scheduled to start at 6:45 a. m. Excellent hotel and motel accommodations are available at the Bridge.

All-Year Entertainment

MIAMI BEACH, Fla.—An all-year entertainment program to which visitors are welcome is conducted by the Miami Beach recreation department. There are separate divisions for adults and youngsters. Three community centers are used for the program, which includes [illegible] dancing and games.

OF ALL PLACES

By HORACE SUTTON

Pioneertown Puts Up Good Front, And Actually That's About All It Is

Horace Sutton

PIONEERTOWN, Calif. — Should anyone know of a boulevardier without a boulevard, the local main street is for hire at $25 a day. In this home of the horse opera, however, it is called Mane Street.

There is a big sign as you drive in from the desert hills and it says, "Please Do Not Drive on Mane Street." This is sort of a one yak town.

The reason for not driving on Mane Street is that it might be hired out that day to a movie company, for Pioneertown is in reality a movie set inhabited by people. It was established in 1946 by Dick Curtis, a heavy of the silent horse opera. Some 200 citizens moved in, and each agreed to build a business with a Western front.

Some of Hollywood's most famous actors slept here, sometimes through their best scenes. The Cisco Kid series was made in Pioneertown, and Gene Autry lived here from 1948 to 1950 while making Annie Oakley. For the Judge Roy Bean television series, the village was altered to look like Langtry, Tex. All told, the false face of Pioneertown has appeared in some 200 films. In its salad days, 3,000 visitors flooded the town on weekends, filtering in and out of the saloons and restaurants along Mane Street.

In spite of this prosperity, Pioneertown went bust and, although grass ain't growing on its street, there are only 80 people left and that includes those who live in Rim Rock, four miles over the hill.

Still in business is the Golden Stallion, which serves Chinese and American dishes and makes the flat statement: "No finer food in the West." It can dish out anything from a tuna fish sandwich to almond duck—and is only open from March to November. "Other times too cool," says Frank Gee, proprietor.

Across the street, the Town House Motel takes in paying customers at $4 per person, $5 for two, and park your iron at the front desk, please. If two persons use two beds it's $6, if three sleep in the room it's $7, if four sleep in the room it's $8. If anymore sleep in the room, its crowded.

Many stars — Barbara Stanwyck, Teresa Wright, Roy Rogers, Lew Ayres, Leo Carillo —have put their foot on the rail of the Red Dog Cafe, a saloon that comes complete with a nickelodeon that costs 10 cents to operate. The back of the bar is 100 years old and was fetched up from the old mining town of Oatman, Ariz.

The faces of characters who shot bottles off it are plastered around the walls on wanted signs, such as: "Notice — to Thieves, Thugs, Fakirs and Bunko Steerers, Billy the Kid, Billy Mullin, Little Jack, The Cuter, Pock-Marked Kid and about Twenty Others: If found within the limits of the city after ten o'clock P. M. this night you will be invited to a Grand Neck-tie Party the Expense of which will be borne by 100 Substantial Citizens."

Tourists can eat and drink in the Red Dog or the Golden Stallion, have their pictures taken along Mane Street, or bowl in the alleys which screeches juke box music across the valley.

When I drove up the other day Elvis Presley, the man for whom Mane Street was named, was competing for noise with rifle shots that cracked across the desert. Maybe somebody was filming a cowboy picture and then again maybe somebody was aiming at the juke box.

To get here, you have to take Twenty-nine Palms Highway, a strange, bumpy road that rollicks like a roller coaster over the dry brown lands of the high desert. The turn-off to Pioneertown comes at that urban center, Yucca Valley. Beyond Yucca Valley, the highway leads to the Joshua Tree National Monument. Driving through Twenty-nine Palms and that other metropolis Thousand Palms, set me to wondering the other day—whatever happened to Helen Twelvetrees?

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Quebec Skiing Season's Long

Lac Beauport Area Offers Winter Sport Through Easter Holiday Season

QUEBEC, P. Q.—Lac Beauport ski area just outside the ancient walled city of Quebec provides snow sport right through until the Easter holiday season.

The deep snowbowl in Laurentians protects the ski snow on the hills with their wooded trails, open downhill slopes, and the array of ski lifts. There are two parallel lifts each more than 3,700 feet in length and with a vertical rise of 500 feet up the hillside. In addition, of course, there are smaller T-bars and rope tows.

The Beauport ski school remains busy through the spring skiing and is credited with introducing thousands of newcomers to the exhilirating sport of skiing. Qualified instructors teach classes and provide individual instruction under the general personal direction of Fritz Loosli.

Buses and cars bring the skiers from the metropolitan hotels of Quebec only 10 miles away by hard surface highway, but many prefer the quaint Normandie Inn at the foot of the ski hills where they have more leisure to bask in the sun and acquire a March or April suntan.

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