

For Six Month Period Ending Feb. 28, 1994
(Insert date)

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Registration No.

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I—REGISTRANT

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(2) Citizenship	Yes ☐	No ☐
(3) Occupation	Yes ☐	No ☐

(b) If an organization:

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(2) Ownership or control	Yes ☐	No ☒
(3) Branch offices	Yes ☐	No ☒

2. Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in item 1.

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BURRELLE'S

FOUR-WHEEL: Tough Trekking

Continued from L16
ferns and wild grasses. We hiked until we were tired, had a picnic beside the stream, then returned to our vehicle and drove back to Alice at a leisurely pace.

The next day we headed southeast on another four-wheel-drive-only track. This time there were no boulders to climb, no rivers to ford—just a wide dirt swath of washboard ruts and mudholes. Twenty-five miles down the line we found the Ewaninga rock carvings, one of the highlights of our entire trip.

Here, the flat desert was broken by a ring of rock outcroppings that suggested tired old giants hunched around a fire. Nearby, a small pond had become a haven for life. Maroon and yellow wildflowers danced merrily around tufts of prickly spinifex grass. Blue mallee bushes and pine-tree-like desert oaks shaded small rodents and lizards.

We were greeted by the chattering of swallows, wrens and martins, welcomed by the throb of crickets. We could almost imagine the light breeze whispering tales of the 300 generations of nomadic Aborigines who had lived and died here. Wrapped around everything

was a sense of ageless peace, as solid as the rocks, as ethereal as the clouds.

And then there were the paintings: Scattered around the outcroppings were well-preserved works by ancient artists. The abstract carvings included concentric circles, wavy lines and animal tracks. Thousands of years old, these haunting symbols, and their peaceful home, held us in their magic for nearly half a day.

The next day, we headed to Kings Canyon, part of Watarrka National Park. The canyon, about a four-hour drive from Alice, takes at least a day to see even partially. An easy, scenic hour's walk winds through the canyon; a truly spectacular but much harder four-hour trail goes to the top of the canyon and around the rim. We tried the longer trek, heeding numerous warning signs and taking along hats, sun block, food and water. The hike was difficult at times (it's not for the old at heart), but requires only average fitness and a relaxed pace to be accomplished. It helps that the rock is in layered formations, like steppingstones.

The hardest going is at the beginning, when the trail snakes up a rugged, rubble-strewn hillside

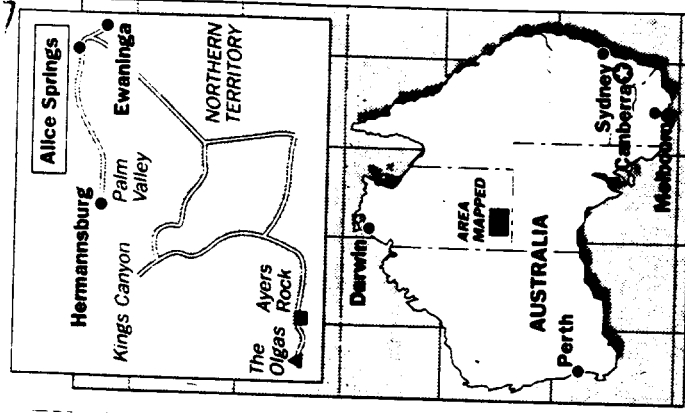
to the top of the canyon. This portion of the climb gave us great views of the surrounding desert, but was also a constant reminder that we were 40 years old.

Reaching the top of the cliff, we found the trail well-marked by unobtrusive blue arrows and enhanced with good interpretive signs. After catching our breath, we headed off into the eerie "Lost City," with its post-holocaust-like sandstone "buildings."

The trail then wound toward the cliff rim, where the canyon walls are so sheer they look as if they've been sliced by a giant cleaver. With no guard rails, and a breeze nearly always blowing, most people lie on their stomachs and inch toward the edge to peer over into the canyon. An added benefit is that you're already prone if you faint from fright.

We could have spent an entire day wandering around the canyon's sandstone domes or just sitting near the rim and scaring ourselves to death. Instead, we continued on to Ayers Rock and the Olgas.

Back in Alice Springs a few days later, after more four-wheel explorations, we bid farewell to Tonka. Our muscular friend had been in-



VICTOR KOTOWITZ / Los Angeles Times

timidating at first, but we had soon grown fond of him. Without him, we realized, we would have worried constantly. For such peace of mind, it seemed a small price to pay that, for weeks after the trip, we talked in manly grunts and dreamed about torque, r.p.m.s and gear ratios.

Miller is a Denver-based freelance writer, temporarily living in Australia.

GUIDEBOOK

The Outback on Wheels

Getting there: There is daily air service to Alice Springs from Sydney, Adelaide and other Australian cities on Australian Airlines and Ansett Australia. Round-trip fares from Sydney begin at about \$400, from Adelaide at about \$270.

Getting around: Four-wheel-drive vehicles may be rented from numerous car rental agencies in Alice Springs, including representatives of Hertz, Avis, National and other international companies. Depending on season, type of vehicle and length of rental, rates range from about \$60 to \$100 per day. Gasoline is expensive in Australia; filling a four-wheel-drive tank can cost \$45-\$60. Note: There are basic safety rules that any

four-wheel-drive traveler in the outback should learn and follow. Among them: It is essential to take along ample food, water and protective clothing (including sun hats), even on short trips, and if a breakdown should occur, it is vital to stay with your vehicle. It is also advisable not to drive after sunset, when animals on the roads become serious hazards. Rental car agencies and the Alice Springs tourist center will provide more specific information.

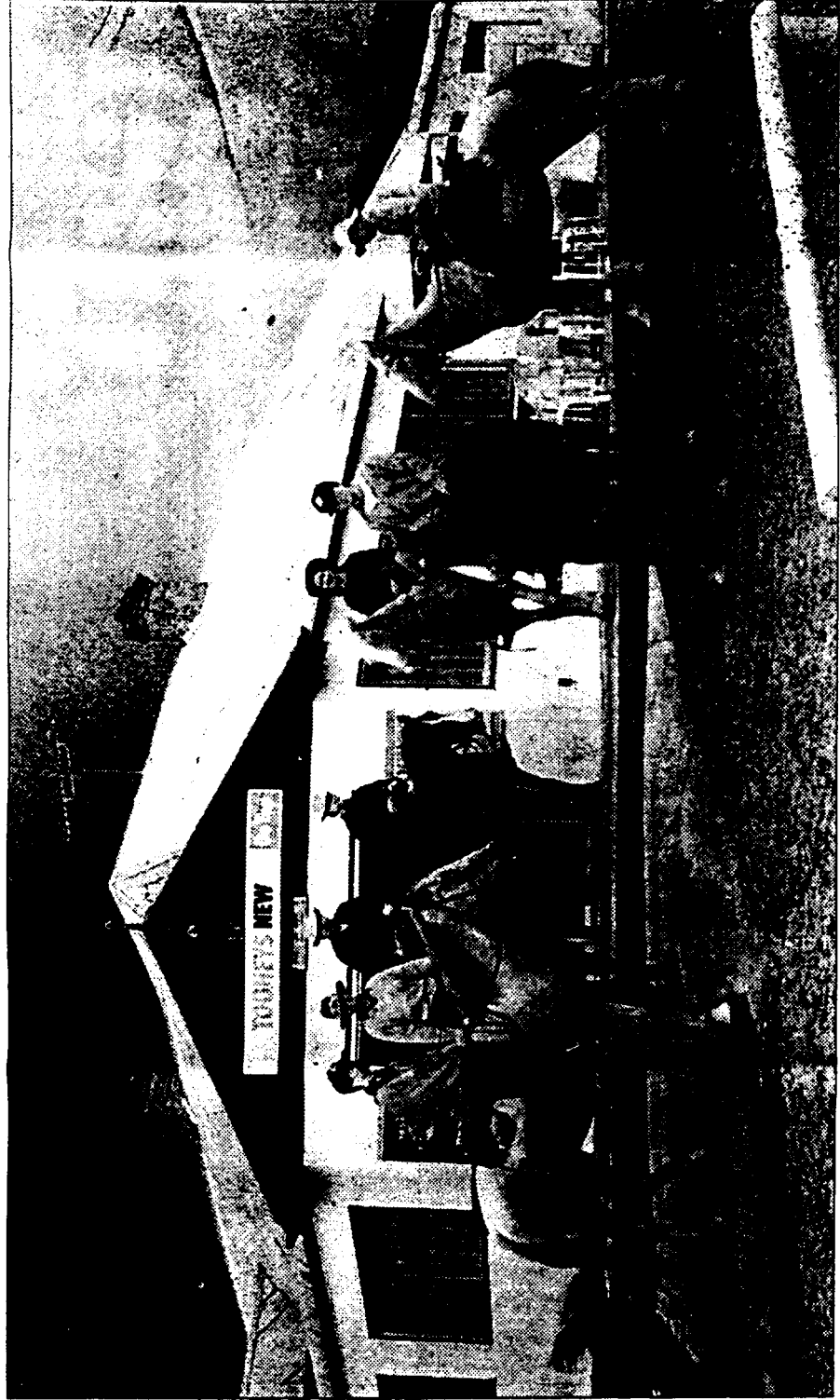
Where to stay: Alice Springs is a major tourist destination, and as such has numerous hotels, motels and resorts at all levels and prices. Two recommended establishments: Alice Springs Pacific Resort, 34 Stott Terrace.

centrally located, with a pool and restaurant. Rates: about \$85 for two; tel. 011-61-89-526-699 (from the United States), fax 011-61-89-530-995. Melia Alice Springs, Barrett Drive, the fanciest place in town (actually just outside the city), a former Sheraton now Spanish-owned, with a golf course, tennis courts, pool and several bars and restaurants. Rates: about \$110-\$140; for reservations, tel. 011-61-89-528-000.

For more information: Contact the Australian Tourist Commission, 2121 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1200, Los Angeles 90067, (310) 552-1988.

—J.M.

Destination: Australia



DEBBIE SEAMAN

Mane event: Riders pose outside Torrington pub.

Los Angeles Times
Sept. 26, 1993



Red center: In Australia's midsection, the desert soil shimmers in temperatures that can reach 120 degrees. For a story on a four-wheel-drive adventure here, see L16.

MINI 10 1010 1

INTO THE OUTBACK

Pub Crawls on Horseback in the New South Wales Bush

6675
By DEBBIE SEAMAN

GLEN INNES, Australia—I'm not sure at what point I realize, on my horseback pub crawl through Australian bushranger country, that (at the age of 40) I've inadvertently managed to go back to summer camp.

It might have been that night after dinner when our host, Steve Langley, tells our troop how he and an earlier band of pub crawlers, deeply in their cups, decided to cure a sonorous snorer among them by putting a screaming, squirming baby wild bush pig in his bed. More likely, though, it is the afternoon we seven equestrians, led by Langley, thunder up a hillside overlooking acres of rolling, eucalyptus-dotted cattle country and, struggling to pull my hat back on my head, I stifle the urge to holler, "Yee-ha!"

When I first set out on this trip, a tour officially called "Pub Crawls on Horseback," I wonder if I haven't stumbled into some weeklong equestrian saturnalia. The horses all sport such bibulous sobriquets as Southern Comfort, Bailey's and Bourbon. And Steve Langley's Bullock Mountain Homestead, near Glen Innes in north-east New South Wales—where his pub crawls on horseback begin and end—seems a shrine to partying pub crawls past. On the walls, immortalized in calligraphy, are ballads, sent to Langley by nostalgic guests, hunting at horrid hangovers and clandestine couplings, along with the expected saddle sores and stiff joints.

The ruddy-faced Langley, too, seems a veritable bushman's Bacchus, his stomach straining against his

24 Please see PUBS, L.11

PUBS: A Crawl by Horseback

Continued from L1

blue work shirt; his sleeves rolled up to reveal the panthers and peacocks tattooed on his arms—mementos of his days in the merchant marine. His blue eyes gazing unflinchingly out from under a classic Aussie stockman's hat, he exudes a hail-fellow-well-met camaraderie, and, an irrepresible raconteur, he has a seemingly inexhaustible supply of stories, usually outrageous, often off-color.

It soon becomes clear, however, in spite of its near-Chaucerian overtones, that temperate participants can temper a pub crawl. Indeed, we are a largely sober crew, our favored means of escapism apparently more gallop than grog. Even Langley, who says that he used to tippie on the trail until a guest complained, is sober in the saddle and merely high-spirited pub-side. Indeed, it is hard to imagine how a head-splitting hangover could be endured in this most rural of regimes, in which we pub crawlers rise early, usually feed and saddle our mounts before we sit down to breakfast ourselves, and are on horseback most of the day.

"Langley's Raiders," as he likes to call us, make up as motley a crew as any holiday camp could hope to assemble; we include a trucker, a nurse, a motelier and the manager of the corporate gym at one of Australia's big breweries. Two others are unemployed, and all are Aussies save myself, a "Yank." And all, with the exception of a former government employee whose posture in the saddle taxes Langley to the outer limits of his skills as a host, are competent, if not crackjack, horsemen. But, as we are to discover under Langley's firm tutelage, woe be to the hapless horseman who dares take the lead on the trail or shirk his duties at feeding time later.

Our schooling begins after lunch on the first day at the Homestead—a cluster of simple but sturdy buildings and corrals—with such trail tips as how to tether our horses with frayed twine so the gear doesn't break if they're spooked, or how to pull their forelegs forward after saddling up to reduce the risk of girth gall. Assigned mounts according to our professed ability—I get a lively chestnut named Pimms, who reminds me of a ship on high seas when he canters—we take a trail ride past an old sapphire mine on Langley's property to break us in. It's raining lightly, and,

having donned an Aussie Akubra and one of the long, weathered oilskin stockman's coats Langley has availed us of, I feel transformed.

If only it were that simple: I only half-listen to Langley when he warns me that I'm going to have to forget the English school of riding to which I'm accustomed, and that, if I fail to get the hang of the deep-seated, long-stirruped Australian style of riding, I'm going to come down with "knee-monia." Dropping his own stirrups and reins, he circles us in a canter, his arms extended as if he's imitating an airplane, in order to demonstrate the desired balance seat. I nod and notch up my stirrups anyway.

Our host cheerfully rousts us from our beds at 6:45 the next morning. "Are we all happy little Vegemites?" he crows, mimicking the ad campaign for that foul-looking breakfast spread that the Australians, like the English, are weaned on. Then he vanishes into the woods, and we hear only the rifle-like reports of his stockman's whip before the horses materialize in the eucalyptus trees out of the dissipating mist, heading for the corral. Stable cats slink across the paddock, and, as the sun gets hotter, we're serenaded by Australian bush bird song, the maniacal laughter of the kookaburras and the shrill warbling of the

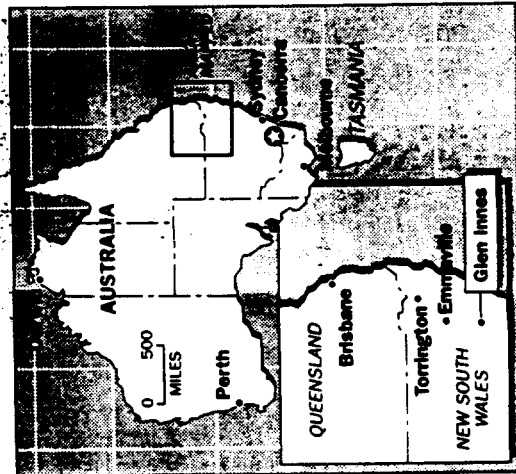
magpies.

The day's ride to our first destination, the Deepwater Inn pub, covers about 22 miles, and I'm the only one surprised when I do come down with "knee-monia" and have to let my stirrups down. The pub itself is, as I expect, not fancy; fading photos of the pub in its glory days share space with fishing trophies, football pennants and cigarette and beer ads. Langley, who's just finished telling us about the pub crawler who got the shock of his life when he relieved himself against an electric cattle fence, switches into a historical mode and tells us how the pub was built in 1865 with convict labor and used as a Cobb & Co. stagecoach stopover.

Ian, the trucker, who has forgotten if he's on his fifth or sixth pub crawl, has his mind elsewhere. "Give me beer!" he bellows. "Give me a sheila!" he adds only slightly more softly. This is the closest approximation I've seen of the stereotypical Australian male, and I begin to wonder what sort of "yobbo" and "ockers"—synonymous in Australia for louts and ruffians—we're bound to encounter pub-side.

But the group of shearers and stockmen gathered around the bar and billiard room at our destination are a docile, smiling lot.

Proprietors Paul and Maureen Hopper



VICTOR KOTOWITZ / Los Angeles Times

serve us up drinks, and pub-crawler Carol line pays for them, following the unwritten rule that whoever loses his or her hat on the trail must "shout the bar."

Soon, though, we're out again to feed the horses, scooping the allotted feed into makeshift burlap nose bags. Having watched the unsaddled horses shake themselves and roll in the dirt earlier, I fight the urge, without success, to collapse to the ground myself. Not only are my knees

screaming, but my calves feel bruised, and I suspect that a rash is developing on my posterior.

Most of us turn in right after our corned-beef dinner, although Hopper assures us that he wouldn't turn us away from the bar until breakfast. Langley's promise, which I interpret as a threat, is that we're going to do 36½ of the next 37 kilometers at a gallop the following day. I've already changed mounts once, to Malibu, who prefers a trot to a walk, and the next morning I change again, this time to Southern Comfort, a small Percheron mare who, Ian promises, rides like a Rolls-Royce.

Our galloping time is curtailed when poor Pimms, now on a tether as a spare horse, comes down with colic and must be kept from collapsing. The taciturn Ken, who still can't sit up straight, raises everyone's eyebrows when he suddenly assumes the role of wrangler and doggedly keeps Pimms on his feet.

The ailing beast is better by the time we stop for our sandwiches and a small snooze and "sunbake," under the scrutiny of a dozen cows, at the base of a blasted, blackened tree that gives credence to Langley's earlier assertion that this is "lightning strike country."

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PUBS

Continued from L11

The Torrington pub is homely. Above the bottles behind the bar is the warning, "If you think the barmaid's beautiful, don't drive." The requisite pool table is off to one side of a crackling fire. Yet the walls of the dining room reserved for pub-crawl diners are hung with a surprisingly good art collection, replete with Australian landscapes, and we later learn that Bev Bower, who runs the pub with her husband, Mal, not only is a collector but has a master's degree in English literature.

Bev is also a "gun" cook, as the Australians say, and we're delighted and amazed when she serves us a candlelight dinner of horseshoe and fish Florentine, followed by the cream topped with pincapple and brème.

de menthe.

Langley, having set aside the next day for a rest—more for the horses than for us—takes us on a hike up to Thunderbolt Rocks, through a forest abloom with yellow wattle trees and wildflowers. When we're just below the granitic promontory, Langley perches on a log, gathers us around him like a Scout leader and recounts the legend of Fred Ward, a.k.a. Captain Thunderbolt, a heroic local bush-ranger. As we listen, rapt, only the breeze ruffling the tops of the eucalyptus trees is audible when he pauses. Soon, however, he's up and off, clambering up the rocks past Thunderbolt's Cave to the summit, where he offers us a sweeping 360-degree vista and traces the diamond-shaped route we're taking through the region.

We are meant to drop in to visit an artist friend of Langley's, but Bev Bower tells us the fellow has called to say he's too hung

over to receive us, so we pile into four-wheel-drive vehicles and head directly out to the site of our bush barbecue. We fan out to forage for firewood before exploring the footpaths within a stone's throw of the shelter, until the Australian bush call of "Coocoo" splits the air. "Tucker time!" cries Langley. "Get the nose bags out!"

Empty bottles—"stubbies"—of Tooheys and Castlemaine beer soon pile up to one side as we munch on bangers and burgers from the "barbie." It's eminently simple fare, but, as Langley points out during a pause from pontificating about local mining history, "I'd rather have a feed like this in the bush than sit down at the table."

In the evening, a jog on foot brings me even closer to nature, to the point that a kangaroo darts across the road in front of me and I'm buzzed by a screaming, hawk-like plover, protecting its nest. Wrung out, I return at dusk to find Langley holding

court again—this time by the hearth, remembering the immaculately attired British woman who came for a ride at the Homes'ead only to have a determined stallion mount her mare while she was astride it. The woman surprised Langley with her aplomb after the beast quickly did the deed and collapsed. "Typical man," she muttered, picking herself off the ground and brushing off her jodhpurs.

Later, Langley takes us on a "wilderness ride" and shows us the remains of a major marijuana operation in the hills that was busted a couple of years earlier. We finally even hear how Langley, in 1978, abandoned a lucrative but soul-destroying career in marketing with 3M Corp. in Sydney to move up to the wilds of New South Wales, where he turned his hobby, horses, into his profession. Pub Crawls, we learn, began as Historic Town and Hotel Treks, before an ex-girlfriend of Langley's coined

the catchier current name.

I have to leave early, before the tour is over, and as I take my leave the next day, I'm saddened to watch as the others prepare to ride on to Emmaville and then back to Bullock Mountain. In the paddock, the silver-tongued Langley chats as he casually picks a horse's hooves—then, making the switch from farrier to philosopher as fast as a flick of his whip—explains on the vital role of respect in relationships, be it with humans or horses.

He brightens suddenly. "I'll tell you a funny, true story about an uncle of mine . . . he ventures."

"What?" interjects Tracy, the gym manager, with mock outrage. "You mean the other ones weren't true?"

Seaman, a free-lance journalist who recently moved from Paris to Sydney, describes herself as a "lapsed horsewoman."

GUIDEBOOK

Hitching Up a Pub Tour

Getting there: Oxley Airlines flies daily from Sydney to Glen Innes for about \$110 round trip.

Pub crawls on horseback: Pub crawls are scheduled roughly every two weeks. Full tours run for six days and six nights, with three-day versions available on request. Rates are about \$580 per person for six days, \$265 for three days, including horses, accommodations and meals, but excluding beverages except for some wine. Tours may be booked directly through Steve Langley, P.O. Box 379, Glen Innes, NSW 2370, Australia (tel. 011-61-67-321-599). The U.S. booking representative is Peggy Hallauer, Fits Equestrian Vacations on Horseback Abroad, 685 Lateen Road, Solvang, Calif. 93463, (800) 666-3487 or (805) 688-9494.

—D.S.

stagger backward, clamping the mask over my nose and mouth.

Robert led us upward to the main crater, explaining that the shape of the landscape here changes frequently –

whenever there's an eruption.

One of our party asked, not quite steadily, when the last eruption happened. "About three months ago," said Robert. "But there's usually a little warning." No one asked how long a little might be.

The largest crater looked big enough to have swallowed a city block, skyscrapers and all. At its center was a patch of bright, unearthly yellow, nearly pure sulfur. A secondary hole was emitting a continuous, almost indus-

trial roar. A few dozen feet above it a cloud of white steam appeared, rising to join the larger cloud that hung above the island.

Robert suggested that we not get too close: The steam at the crater's mouth, he said, was about 800 degrees Celsius – nearly 1,500 degrees Fahrenheit.

Not far away in the ruins of the old sulfur processing plant was a rectangular wooden box – a rat trap, placed to catch the only liv-

ing creatures, other than human visitors, that entered the crater regularly.

But, as I listened to the roaring all around me, I realized that the true resident life of White Island was right under my feet – the throbbing, white hot heart of the earth itself – and everything else, including us, was there only on sufferance, a visa from nature that could be revoked at any time.

at least two runners and two sailors. The race travels from the north end of the island to the south, and along the way the boats make three stops – during which the sailors sleep and teams of two runners disembark to race anywhere from 15 to 36 miles, up and down a mountain. The runners reboard, and the crews sail on to the next landfall.

Before things really got

By Ellen Alperstein

Tasmania



Dear ISLANDS,
Here in Tasmania, Easter weekend brings the Australian Three Peaks Race, Tasmania's sporting hybrid of yachting and endurance running – a 400-mile exercise in conceptual lunacy. Teams for the annual event are composed of five athletes, including...

PHOTO BY ELLEN ALPERSTEIN

ISLANDS
3886 State St
Santa Barbara, CA
93105
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the Regent, Fiji. A sunworshipper
 postponing the afternoon's gamefishing.



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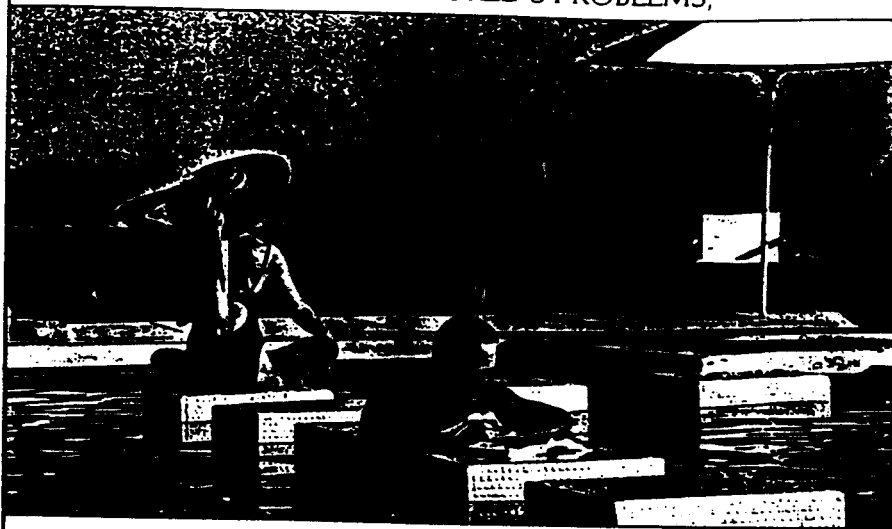
Gamefishing, windsurfing and tennis are a few of the sports in which you may wish to indulge. Or not.

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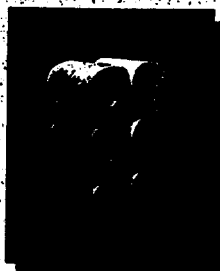
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going, I took a look at the yachts docked at Beauty Point. The sailors moved gracefully around the narrow decks of their vessels. The runners, however, teetered on the decks, many of them wearing antiseasickness ear patches.

At the prerace briefing, the race director spelled out the prevailing nautical conditions, then turned his attention to the runners, describing their outlook to be "rocky, with a high possibility of ticks and tiger snakes." Only the sailors snickered.

On Good Friday afternoon 30 yachts jockeyed for start-



Elmer Argente

Runners on
Flinders
Island
hotfoot it
to their
yachts
in the
Australian
Three
Peaks
Race.

ing position, surrounded by pleasure craft whose sun-burned crews toasted the passing parade with blue cans of Foster's.

The race was certainly an equal-opportunity event, with professional skippers and Sunday sailors, marathoners, and former high school track stars. Some teams expected, barring disaster, to finish on Monday, in three days of round-the-clock racing; others might come in as late as Thursday.

Finally the starting gun sounded. As a sleek, high-tech catamaran moved smartly to the lead, crews aboard some of the older boats wrestled with tangled sheets. "Those would be the Thursday boats," remarked one wit ashore.

Trying to follow the race around the island required some creative ride bumming. To get to and from the first landfall, Flinders Island, I caged a seat on a small

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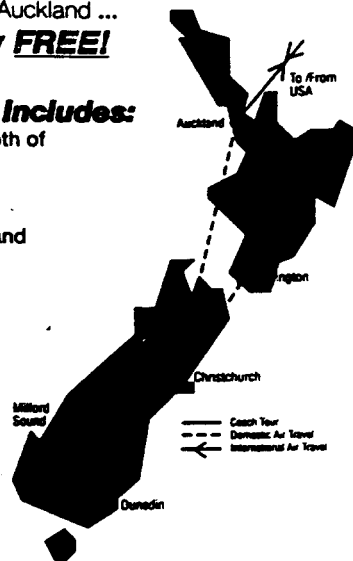
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plane chartered by a TV crew. So, on Saturday morning, I was comfortably munching a smoked mutton-bird sandwich on the jetty at Flinders, watching the race team of Liverpool police strand themselves on the mudflats. Their skipper later reported being "arrested for loitering without intent."

This race was the hottest thing to happen on the tiny island since telephone lines were hooked up. A sizable crowd gathered to root for a couple of local runners who were, as it turned out, among the last to complete the hot, dry run up and down Mount Strzelecki.

Later I found myself shoe-horned into a jammed car heading for the next land-fall, Coles Bay.

The first runners to arrive there scaled Mount Freycinet before dawn. One elite runner limped back to the dock on a badly sprained ankle and looked doubtful for the next attack on Hobart's Mount Wellington. But his yacht had stocked a magnum of champagne, a notably restorative elixir.

I squeezed back into the car and raced on to Hobart Sunday night.

The high-tech catamaran, skippered by pros, held its lead and arrived early Monday. Sailing expertise had overcome a mediocre running performance, and by noon the team claimed the Three Peaks crown.

But to the festive fans at Constitution Dock, winning was decidedly secondary to simply finishing. All day long, they applauded weary teams, including the Liverpool bobbies, who tacked wildly out in the harbor. "They're probably looking for a sandbar," one race official said.

In the end, organizers were astonished that all the teams actually finished the race...some on Thursday.

Adelaide's daring dishes

12/1/75

By KIT SNEDAKER

EATING Down Under is a surprise. Australia is having such a passionate love affair with food that it's putting out some of the most exciting meals in the South Pacific.

Nowhere is this more evident than in Adelaide, South Australia. There, Thai, Vietnamese, Middle Eastern and Italian restaurants compete with tapas bars and Greek tavernas up and down Rundle Street. Inside, creative chefs, such as Andrew Fielke at Red Ochre Grill, use French techniques with

Asian spices one moment, the other way around the next.

So concentrated are culinary juices in this area that Stephan Downes, an Australian food pundit, once called Adelaide the gastronomic capital of the country. He's backed off from that, but only because some of the best chefs no longer stick to their kitchens but free-lance throughout the country.

One explanation for Adelaide's reputation, aside from the food itself, is that, geographically, it's the gateway to such lush valleys as the Clare, Eden and Barossa,

which support several hundred wineries. Where there's wine, there is always good food. Add to that the abundance of fresh produce from the cool south and the tropical north.

Most important, however, is the fact that this bit of Australia is home to some eclectic eaters. People here are closer to Asia than to Europe; they are travelers who first tasted the foods of Indonesia and Malaysia in the 1960s and early '70s and came home hungry for more.

Cheong Liew, a Chinese from Kuala Lumpur, gave them what they wanted when he arrived in Adelaide in the early '70s. He opened Nediz Tu and applied Asian cooking methods to European food. Lamb's belly, for instance, might be blanched Chinese-style, deep fried, dipped in cold water and then steamed in a reduced beef stock with red wine. Don't tell him East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet.

Since then, Australians have taken this spicy mix of East and West seasonings and techniques to heart. Supermarket shelves are piled with the fixings — packets of Thai curries, Vietnamese and Chinese sauces. Butcher shops showcase ready-

FAST FACTS

GETTING there: Qantas has direct flights to Sydney daily.

Staying there: Hotels generally are priced about the same as they are here, although the Australian dollar is about one-third less than the American. B&Bs range from \$50 to \$250 a night, depending on the place. An excellent lunch is \$10. Splendid dinners go over \$50, with wine.

Getting around: Driving on the left isn't as tough as it seems. Although there is great public transportation, renting a car and driving around makes the most sense.



New York Post: John Fontana

New York Post
Oct. 1, 1993



Kit Snedeker

FRESHEST FIXIN'S: Markets in Adelaide are bursting with produce from Australia's tropical north and cool south.

to-cook skewered satays and meats cut for stir frying.

"Culinary literacy" is what Australian food writer Cherry Ripe calls this acceptance of hybrid Asian and Western dishes. In this classroom, Chef Tony Ford, from Saltram winery's simple cafe in the Barossa Valley, is a scholar. For instance, he makes an anti-pasto of kangaroo, sugar-cured chicken and marinated octopus. With a Pinnacle shiraz, this lunch makes tracks. Kangaroo, served rare, is beef with character.

What home cooks can do with this range is extraordinary. Diane Barron-Davis, who runs Olivet House with her husband, Howard, wrapped smoked salmon around a spicy Thai salad as the opening gun of a home-cooked meal. The salmon was grown in Tasmania and smoked close to Adelaide. A dry Petaluma Riesling '92 didn't falter beside it; Australian Rieslings, dry and complex, deserve star treatment.

David Hay and Michael Speers of Thorn Park Country House schedule cooking classes for guests in their big kitchen. Thai salads and Italian capponata are comfortable companions at this dining table.

Here's a sample of the kind of eating available from one end of Rundle Street in downtown Adelaide to the other.

The Universal Wine Bar, newest on the block, puts pea and prosciutto soup on its menu and adds a hint of chili for surprise.

At Mezes, a few doors down, main courses include beef tartar, rabbit and sweetbreads.

Red Ochre Grill on Gouger Street goes one step further, adding more native Australian ingredients to the mix. "Kangaroo fillet with guandong (native plum) chili glaze and choy sum," one

menu item reads. Emu medallions with emu wontons and five-spice glaze is another.

Adelaide's romance with food is no secret to the rest of the country. Perth, geographically Australia's Los Angeles, is following suit. King Street Grill, for example, sees nothing wrong with a Thai pasta salad and ravioli in coconut milk. But it's San Lorenzo, one of the best restaurants in the country, that's pacing the pack. Owner/chef Gary Jones apprenticed at Claridge's in London and did five years in France. He refuses to make up dishes just to show off such trendy ingredients as sun-dried tomatoes and pine nuts. Rather, his menus illustrate exactly what Australia is up to: braised squid stuffed with crab and pork in a reduced wine sauce; salted cabbage quenelles; twice-cooked goat-cheese soufflé. His tender grilled local scallops are served with marinated artichokes in fresh olive oil; peeled fava beans and garlic mashed potatoes are sublime.

Gibbsland blue cheese is iced with pureed quince, giving it the wickedness of cheesecake. Polenta tart on a raspberry coulis sports ice cream and the whole thing is covered by a spun-sugar cage.

These are tastes worth flying 14 hours across the Pacific and four hours across Australia for.

And yet despite this inspired culinary creativity, there remain pockets of less-than-ideal British cooking. Meat pies ranging from the ridiculous to the downright awful are eaten as snacks. The most infamous of these, the Pie Floater, originated in Sydney in 1942. Today, late-nighters in Adelaide belly up to a pie cart on King William Street for the same thing: a small meat pie floating in a bowl of pea soup.

New York
Post
Oct. 1, 1993

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Perth is Australia's 'Wild West'

By KIT SNEDAKER
Copley News Service

July is mid-winter in Australia. That's not hard to remember, but the idea that north is tropical and south is cold Down Under is tougher. I still have to stop and think about which is which. As for the size of the place, until you've flown over it, four hours from one coast to the another, it's impossible to picture Australia. Oz, as the country is sometimes called, is almost the size of the United States.

Flying from anywhere on the east coast of Australia to Perth, geographically Los Angeles Down Under, is like flying from New York west to Los Angeles. I got off the plane blinking. Perth looked like a small, clean Los Angeles or maybe San Francisco.

Even though it's Australia's Wild West, like Los Angeles or San Francisco there wasn't a single pair of cowboy boots on anyone. No hitching posts, stagecoaches or bucking broncos, either.

This sparkling town, the state capital of Western Australia, is closer than Indonesia than it is to its own east coast.

I knew I was in the West, though, because people talked about the big gold rush at the end of the last century. Dozens of wineries crush and bottle near here in the Margaret River region, and the food is that exquisite mix of Asian and European called, in California, Pacific Rim.

If that isn't convincing, the weather is. July in Perth made me homesick for January in California. Same bright, cool sunshine, same length days, same dry, crisp air. I wasn't surprised to find stores and guest houses done up with tinsel, wreaths and red and green streamers.

"We have two Christmas's," June Sear, a free-lance guide told me. "One comes in December, as



HOLY TRINITY MISSION — Settled more than 100 years ago as a mission, Holy Trinity is now a

bed-and-breakfast inn. The Benedictine monastery was built just north of the city of New Norcia.

(CNS Photo)

usual, but it's too hot for a proper Christmas dinner or even carols. So when it's cool, like this, we put up the decorations and celebrate with turkey, a beef roast and plum pudding."

Perth also claims to be home of the original Pavlova, that soft meringue dessert garnished with passion fruit. Chef Bert Sachse, working in the town's old Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle, created it to look as white and frothy as the prima ballerina's tutu. Now it's the country's national dish.

The new Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle, the capital's port, looks as though it's been there forever.

Actually, it was spiffed up in 1987 when Australia defended the America's Cup won in San Diego.

The whole town of Fremantle was spiffed up for that occasion and still looks as though someone is going to tie a bow around it any minute. Cafes line the streets, a big bookstore fronts on Market Street, and the mother of all markets stands on the corner of Henderson and Market. Everything from T-shirts to tea, boots to bananas, spills out in bins under one sprawling roof.

Both Perth and its port front the Indian Ocean, but the capital city is edged by King's Park, a swath

of green preserving a large hunk of virgin bush land. The park isn't just for show. Locals were all over it soaking up sun in its meadow: the day I drove through.

With all that sunshine Perth likes to be called the City of Light. Likes it so much that the high John Glenn's spacecraft orbited Australia all of Perth sentimentally switched on its lights. The town wanted to show him some body was home and "leaving the light on for him."

That flamboyant gesture is pure Wild West, something you'd expect from Los Angeles.



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With its vibrant colors and varied marine life, Australia's Great Barrier Reef is one of the wonders of the aquatic world.

Australian Tourist Commission

DOWN UNDER

Rocky Mountain
News
Oct. 3, 1993

Get your fill of reef madness from aboard rollicking riverboat

By Jeff Miller

GREAT BARRIER REEF, Australia — In water as clear as a freshly washed window, orange-and-white-striped clown fish swim in and out of swaying coral, a sea turtle glides by, and bright colors dance across coral palatyes.

Viewing Australia's Great Barrier Reef — via snorkeling, diving, or glass-bottomed boat — can be the experience of a lifetime. Unfortunately, it can take a lifetime to sort through all the reef-trip options available from Cairns — the major jumping off point for most visitors.

One of the newest — and most luxurious — options is a three-or four-day cruise aboard Captain Cook Cruises' "Reef Escape." This former riverboat, now converted to ocean-going vessel, holds a maximum of 126 guests and offers those with limited time a way of experiencing the reef, sampling some of the reef's 600 islands, and enjoying an intimate cruise — all in one trip.

Because the Reef Escape was built for river cruising, it has a flat bottom and the boxy look of a riverboat, although it does have a pointed bow. While it's been refitted for ocean travel, the ship still feels rough seas more than larger vessels, so be forewarned. Most times, however, the sea between the coast and the reef is relatively calm.

Rolling decks notwithstanding, the Reef Escape is a good way to gain an appreciation of the Great Barrier Reef — both the three-day Joseph Banks cruise and the four-day James Cook cruise stop at various islands as well as anchor near the reef for closer looks. Named after Cook, the famous English sailor/explorer, and Banks, his botanist, both cruises are roundtrip from Cairns and can be com-

See REEF on 2T



trip on a glass-bottom boat is narrated by a marine biologist.

Australian landmarks act as religious symbols and tourist attractions

Story and photos by Joe Scholnick

Yulara, Australia — It's a symphony in magenta. Behind us, the setting sun, a red orb hanging just above the horizon, tinges the cloudless sky a pale crimson. The desolate landscape, a stretch of flat, scarlet-tinted barren desert land, extends to the horizon. Even the haze hanging over the land seems ruby-hued.

In front is the mammoth monolith, called Ayers Rock by the Europeans who have taken over this land and Uluru by the Aboriginal peoples to whom ownership of the area has been returned. The Rock is a huge, startling monument in the midst of the flat landscape, soaring 1,442 feet high, covering more than 1¼ square miles and, like the vista surrounding it, tinted a garish crimson.

For the Aborigines, this is a religious edifice. For visitors, sunset at Ayers Rock is a social event. Cars, tour buses, RVs with folding chairs and tripod-mounted cameras on the roofs line the road designated the best viewing area. One tour service even provides champagne and canapes to patrons at the daily observance.

Watching the shadow line of the edge of the Earth creep closer to the Rock as the sun starts to sink beneath the horizon, it's easy to understand why the Aborigines, viewing the same sunset, considered it a religious experience at a sacred site.

The shadow line creeps across the broad, sparse plain to the base of the Rock, then climbs the sheer face to the top.

Even in the increasing gloom of twilight as the setting sun dips beneath the horizon and the Rock is cloaked in darkening shadow, there seems to be an inner glow emitting a peculiar vermilion light from the Rock.

The experience is mesmerizing. There's a reluctance to leave, to break the spell of

See ROCKS on 2T



Like a row of ants, climbers line up to ascend to the top of Ayers Rock.

Riverboat gambole on Great Barrier Reef

REEF from 21

bin for a seven-day trip.

The Banks cruise goes south of Cairns and includes stops at Hinchinbrook Island, Australia's largest island national park, Dunk Island, a rainforest isle, and Fitzroy Island, a continental island close to the coast. Opportunities are given for island walks, snorkeling, diving and glass-bottom-boatting. The four-night James Cook cruise sails north of Cairns for a stop at Cooktown, where the famous captain spent more than a month repairing his ship, the Endeavour. Passengers of the Reef Escape can wander around the sleepy little village, take a 90-minute guided tour, or visit the fascinating history museum.

From Cooktown, the ship steams northwest to Lizard Island for a day-and-a-half stay. One of the northernmost Great Barrier Reef islands, Lizard is where Cook finally spotted a way out of the reef after climbing the island's highest hill. Today, Lizard is also home to a premier island resort — boasting a maximum of 64 guests, 35-45 staff and 23 private beaches.

While Reef Escape passengers aren't allowed in the resort, they are treated to a full day on two different beaches that have wonderful coral and marine life. In the morning, the ship's crew sets up beach tents, a mini-bar, water sports equipment and floats for swimmers on a finger-nail strip of white sand. In the afternoon, they shift it all to a second spectacular beach.

The third day is spent anchored at Ribbon Reef Five on the outer

fringe of the Great Barrier Reef. With no beach in sight, just the coral lying below the surface, the crew establishes snorkeling areas with floats and ropes, and runs continuous tours in a glass-bottomed boat. Even swimmers find the glass-bottomed boat worth it — both for the hypnotic gazing at the reef sliding along beneath their feet, and for the excellent commentary by the ship's marine biologist.

The reef is truly one of the wonders of the world. Snaking along Australia's northeastern coast for more than 1,500 miles, it is the largest structure created by living creatures. Six hundred islands and 2,900 individual reefs, some close to shore, others 150 miles away, are home to 350 species of coral, 10,000 types of sponge, 4,000 kinds of mollusk and more than 1,500 varieties of fish.

These statistics translate into incredible experiences — touching the velvet smoothness of a giant clam's mantle, watching the bird-like motions of stingrays, or following the antics of black-and-white-striped humpback fish (some no longer than a fingernail). Everywhere the reef dazzles, from the neon blue of star fish and the canary yellow of staghorn coral, to the fire-engine red and forest green of parrot fish.

After a rewarding but tiring day on the reef, the ship is waiting. For a small vessel it's well-appointed, with an elegant piano lounge and dining room, large picture windows, a small stern-deck pool and a top-deck sunning area. Especially nice is a metal platform on the stern that

IF YOU GO

Getting There: International Airport has direct international service from North America and connecting service with major Australian cities through the two major domestic airlines, Australian Airlines and Ansett Airlines. If you want to start your Australian experience the moment you get on the plane, try Qantas.

Weather: The seasons are reversed. Because Cairns is in the tropics, their summer (our winter) can have numerous humid days over 100, but ocean visibility is good. Their winter (our summer) is more comfortable, most days in the 80s or 90s. May through December are good months for weather and visibility, with October the best of all worlds.

Accommodations: There are three levels of rooms on the Reef Escape, cabin (small but comfortable with bunk beds), stateroom (more room with twin beds or double), and deluxe stateroom (a little more room and choice of twin, double or queen bed). There doesn't seem to be too much difference between a stateroom and deluxe stateroom.

Shipboard dress: Casual tropical clothing and sportswear during the day. A jacket, pullover or wrap may be necessary for cool winter nights. Evenings, smart casual shirts with collars, and a blazer or jacket is not out of place at the captain's dinner, held once each cruise.

Prices: Listed in Australian dollars, per person; double occupancy and include all meals, water sports equipment, glass-bottom boat trips and some island walks. Not included are drinks, scuba dives, and shore excursions. Joseph Banks three-night cruise, cabin, \$792; stateroom, \$924; and deluxe stateroom, \$1,073. James Cook four-night cruise: cabin, \$1,056; stateroom, \$1,132; deluxe stateroom, \$1,430 (valid through March 1994).

Snorkeling and diving: You don't need to bring snorkel or dive equipment, everything is supplied on Reef Escape. Certified scuba divers can dive for \$30 per dive, all equipment provided.

Further information: Australian Tourist Commission, Los Angeles, (310) 552-1988; Queensland Tourist & Travel Corp., Los Angeles, (310) 788-0997; or International Cruise Connections, (800) 433-9747.

can be raised and lowered into the ocean, allowing for easy and safe transfer from ship to glass-bottomed boat.

All accommodations onboard are air-conditioned and open directly to outside decks, giving each room a light, airy look, but also making some passengers feel there's a lack of privacy. The food is plentiful and good, although not on par with the finest cruise cuisine, while the fresh-faced, enthusiastic staff provides excellent service.

After sailing all night from Ribbon Reef Five, the Reef Escape glides into Cairns early the next morning. Passengers staying on for the three-night Joseph Banks cruise have a day to shop in Cairns. Those disembarking look back with a little regret — most will not only miss the luxury and service, but will envy those who are getting another look at the magnificent Great Barrier Reef.

Jeff Miller is freelance writer who lives in Denver.

Rocks challenge climbers

RIVER from 1T

celestial encounter.

In the bright glare of the morning sun, the allure is different. The sheer multi-faceted face of the Rock seems to represent a challenge to many. Rangers of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, who manage the national park in which the Rock is located, tend to discourage it, but many visitors try to climb to the top.

"Surprisingly, going up, for many, is a lot easier than coming down," says a ranger as climbers try to slide down on their bottoms. "You don't realize how steep it is when you're climbing, but it sure hits you when you turn around."

Just how many try to climb the Rock isn't really known. There's no added admission charge or permit required, so there's no easy way to count. But at times, climbers, aided by the metal bannister ascending the steepest portion of the most popular approach, seem like a colony of ants, in a long row, climbing the face of a 100-story skyscraper.

"The real problem we have with climbers," the ranger says, "is that they don't realize how hot it gets on the Rock, without a bit of shade, and how much preparation is required to avoid disaster. We have to go up quite often to rescue climbers who haven't brought their own water, or whose shoes just aren't built for the rough terrain or who just aren't in the top physical shape required to make the climb up — and down — on their own."

By contrast, the rocks in Western Australia, in the Nambung National Park, about 150 miles north of Perth along the shore of the Indian Ocean, have not been imbued with religious significance, but are equally awe-inspiring for their unique qualities.

Out of the shifting yellow sands of the Swan Coastal Plain of the Park are thousands of huge limestone pillars, some towering 12 feet high, crowded together and scattered along the stark landscape. Some are jagged, sharp-edged columns, rising to a point. Others are short, squat, resembling tombstones. The area, termed the Pinnacle Desert, extends for miles along the horizon.

George Sisarich, who operates a four-wheel touring service, says the Pinnacles have developed over countless centuries.

"Scientists theorize that the Pinnacles evolved from sea shells which were broken down into lime-rich sand dunes along the nearby shore, then carried inland by the winds," he says. "Rain slowly leached the lime from the sands, cementing the harder materials deep in the sand base."

The acidic nature of decomposing vegetation formed a hard calcrete layer over the softer limestone, he continues, and as the prevailing

IF YOU GO

Yulara, the small city near Ayers Rock, is pretty close to the geographic center of Australia, in the Northern Territory. Sydney, on the east coast of Australia, is about 1,330 miles away.

Perth, on Australia's southwestern shore, is about a five-hour flight from Sydney, and two hours earlier. For a tour of the Pinnacles Desert and the monstrous sand dunes along the shore, contact George Sisarich at Travelabout, 61 Brady St., Glendalough, Western Australia 6016.

Adelaide, a sophisticated city on Australia's south shore, is about 2 1/2 hours by air from Perth, and an hour and a half later. The most convenient way to reach Kangaroo Island is by small aircraft. Air Kangaroo Island flies eight-passenger Cessnas on a frequent schedule. Tours of the island can be arranged by Craig Wickham of Adventure Charters of Kangaroo Island; Bayview Road, American River, Kangaroo Island; South Australia 5221.

U.S. citizens planning to visit Australia must obtain a visa. There's no fee, but it does require a passport with at least six months' remaining validity, a photo and an application form that can be obtained from the Australian Embassy or any Australian consulate or Australian Tourist Commission office.

The Australian air carrier, Qantas (dial toll-free (800) 227-4500) provides non-stop service between Los Angeles and Sydney. Domestic carriers provide frequent service to other Australian cities. See your travel agency for best routes, fares and schedules from your area.

For more information about the attractions of Australia, dial the Australian Tourist Commission toll-free at (800) 333-0262.

(Quoted U.S. dollar amounts subject to exchange rate fluctuations).

winds shifted the sands, the towering pinnacles of stone were exposed.

Here, too, there seems to be an irresistible urge by visitors to clamber on to something. The height of the pinnacle rocks, few more than a dozen feet high, isn't a real challenge, but apparently represents the ideal background for that unique snapshot.

Reaching the National Park and the Pinnacles Desert from Perth, on a good paved highway, is easy. More interesting is to travel a secondary road, at times little more than a narrow, deeply rutted trail, that follows the coastline extending for some 30 miles south of the National Park.

The roadway, composed of packed white sand, is surrounded by scrub vegetation most of the way. From time to time, the coastline, with broad white sandy beaches, comes into view on the right. On the left, gargantuan sand dunes, some higher than a 30-story building, tower over the landscape.

Dune buggies and four-wheel-drive vehicles churn up the chalky grit, which resembles monstrous piles of snow, as they plunge down steep inclines and race up sharp grades.

As George Sisarich steers his four-wheel-drive up a steep slope on one colossal sand dune, he looks back at his six passengers.

"This is better than an amusement park," he grins. "Wait till we get to the top."

Half a continent away, along the shore of the South Ocean, a large island measuring some 90 miles long and 38 mile wide extends into the ocean near Adelaide, in South Australia. It was named Kangaroo Island, not so much because of the abundance of those animals, but because early explorers, hungering for fresh meat, were able to hunt a few when they landed there.

Despite the proximity to one of Australia's more sophisticated cities, Kangaroo Island has managed to retain much of its original wilderness character. Most of the island has been taken over by the government as nature preserves and park land.

On the southwestern shore of the island is a different formation of rocks, called the Remarkables, weirdly shaped by the pounding sea and the wind. Like the Pinnacles, they have no religious significance, but inspire an overwhelming urge by visitors to clamber to the top.

Equally attractive to Kangaroo Island visitors is Seal Bay Conserva-

tion Park, on the south shore of the island. An estimated 500 endangered Australian Sea Lions rest and nurse their young on the large sandy beach and dunes area of the park. Under the guidance of Park Rangers, visitors are permitted to walk along the beach within a few feet of the animals, who largely ignore the human invasion.

Perhaps the most famous of all rock formations in Australia is the section of Sydney called The Rocks. It's actually Sydney's — and Australia's — oldest community; it was here that the first boatload of convicts set up a settlement back in 1788.

The Rocks today exists under the shadow of the massive Sydney Harbor Bridge. When completed in April 1932, it was the longest single-span bridge in the world, and the cars, trucks and commuter trains crossing that span to the city's north shore provide a constant rumbling background noise. The streets are narrow and twisty, much as they were more than 200 years ago, and some of the ancient structures have been reclaimed and converted to modern use.

Along the waterfront are several seafood restaurants, some in century-old warehouses. Sprinkled throughout The Rocks are a number of boutiques, offering excellent merchandise at good prices. The rock formations are still there, but well hidden by commercial establishments, and visitors still manage to clamber atop them.

Reef-trip options as plentiful as fish in sea

By Jeff Miller

6 6 7 5

In water as clear as a freshly washed window, a 5-foot-long, 300-pound potato cod nudges you like a bashful puppy looking for a treat.

A moray eel seems friendly, but flashes a grin of stiletto-sharp teeth. Reef sharks slide along the edge of your peripheral vision. Giant clams the size of dining room tables ponder their 150 years in stoic silence.

Snorkeling or scuba diving on Australia's Great Barrier Reef can be the experience of lifetime. Unfortunately, it can take a lifetime to sort through all the reef-trip options.

In the Cairns/Port Douglas region — the major jumping off point for most international visitors wanting to see the reef — the choices seem as numerous as the proverbial fish in the sea.

That's due to the nature of the beast. Snaking along Australia's

northeastern coast for more than 1,500 miles, the reef is the world's largest structure created by living creatures. Six hundred islands and 2,900 individual reefs — some close to shore, others 150 miles away — are home to 350 species of coral, 10,000 types of sponge, 4,000 kinds of mollusk and more than 1,500 varieties of fish.

But before the adventure begins, decisions have to be made. What does the budget allow? What traveling comforts are needed? Large or small groups?

Adventuresome or riskless? Etc.

Following are three representative options of reef excursions — a floating palace, a medium-sized sailing ship and a 15-person snorkel/dive boat — as well as one of the best islands for seeing the reef without even taking a boat. All have their pros and cons. (All prices per person. Australian dollars.)

Quicksilver Connections

Quicksilver Connections is by far the largest day-trip operator out of Cairns/Port Douglas. Its carpeted and air-conditioned 125-foot catamarans can carry up to 325 visitors and crew. Leaving from Port Douglas (with connecting bus or catamaran service from Cairns), the catamarans go to either a coral cay at the close-in Low Isles or the outer reef's Agincourt Reef.

The day package on both trips includes morning and afternoon teas, a reef presentation by a marine biologist, a great smorgasbord, bar, all snorkeling equipment and a qualified snorkeling advisor.

Of the two trips, the Agincourt

Reef excursion is the most popular, because of the spectacular coral, fish and numerous giant clams.

After a 90-minute ride, the catamaran ties up to an anchored platform from which you can snorkel, eat lunch, sit in the sun or take a coral-viewing cruise in a semi-submersible.

Prices. Low Isles: \$55 adult, \$27.50 child. Agincourt: \$98, \$49. Extra Agincourt: \$60 intro scuba, \$65 certified; \$22 guided snorkel. Both trips depart 10 a.m., return 5 p.m.

Ocean Spirit

The catamaran Ocean Spirit carries about 170 passengers and crew, the catamaran Ocean Spirit is a little more intimate than the Quicksilver, and even boasts sails that are used during a portion of the trip.

Similar in luxury to the Quicksilver, the air-conditioned Ocean Spirit offers as part of its day package morning and afternoon tea, a reef presentation by a marine biologist, all snorkeling equipment, a banquet lunch, bar, semi-submersible, guided snorkeling tours, and live entertainment on the trip home. Optional extras include certified and introductory scuba.

The big difference — other than ship size — between the rival companies is in the destination. The Ocean Spirit anchors off the outer reef's Michaelmas Cay, a sand cay bird sanctuary for more than 28,000 migratory sea birds. This gives people the option of sitting on a beach rather than on a platform. The down side for some is the constant bird racket.

Grand Rapids Press

Oct. 10, 1993

OCT 10 1993

GIBBELL'S



PHOTO/UNDERSEA PRODUCTIONS

Australia's Cod Hole near Lizard Island is a regular petting zoo of underwater creatures.

Passengers can snorkel from the boat or the beach, while introductory divers go from the beach and certified divers from a small launch.

Prices: \$95 adults, \$47.50 child. Extra: \$60 intro scuba, \$60 (2 dives) certified: \$35 per dive. Guided snorkel part of basic price. Departs 8:30 a.m., returns 5 p.m.

Wavelength

Tied up a few blocks away from Port Douglas's fancy new marina lies the 45-foot, 24-passenger/crew Wavelength, tiny in comparison to the two previously mentioned catamarans.

But what the Wavelength lacks in appearance and amenities, it makes up for in personalized service. The bonus is that the boat stops at three different parts of the reef — giving passengers a more varied look at the diverse reef. An

added payoff is that most of the passengers are Aussies — unlike the other's international passengers.

Prices: \$75 adult, \$45 child. Extra: \$135 (2 dives) certified scuba, no intro scuba. Departs 7:30 a.m., returns around 5 p.m.

For Quicksilver and Ocean Spirit in the U.S. contact: ATS, phone 1 (800) 232-2121, or So/Pac, phone 1 (800) 551-2012. Because the Wavelength is so small, booking needs to be done locally, contact: Reef & Rainforest Coast Connections, Shop 18 Marina Mirage, Wharf St., Port Douglas, Queensland, 4871, Australia, phone (070) 99-5599.

Further Information: Australian Tourist Commission, 2121 Ave. of the Stars, #1200, Los Angeles, CA 90067, phone (213) 552-1988.

Jeff Miller is a free-lance travel writer based in Denver.



HAWAII:

THE BIG ISLAND UPDATE

Vol. 4, No. 4 -- Fall 1993
Editor: John Penisten

Big Island's Hapuna Beach Rated Best in Country
In a study of the nation's beaches conducted by leading coastal geologists and marine biologists from the University of Maryland's Laboratory of Coastal Research, the Big Island's Hapuna Beach on the Kohala Coast was named the best beach in the country. The results of the survey were published in the July issue of *Condé Nast Traveler*. In fact, of the study's top ten beaches nationwide, five are in Hawai'i and the others in Florida. The beaches, ranked in order are: 1) Hapuna (Hawai'i), 2) Bahia Honda (Fla), 3) Kailua (Oahu), 4) Kapalua (Maui), 5) Kaunaoa (Hawai'i-Mauna Kea Beach), 6) Grayton Beach (Fla), 7) St. George Island (Fla), 8) Caladesi Island (Fla), 9) Crandon Park (Fla), 10) Uluu (Miami). Some 40 criteria were evaluated at the beaches including water quality and temperature, softness of the sand, views, presence of mosquitoes and pests, and crime rate.

County Council Votes to Retain "Big Island" Label
The Hawai'i County Council recently voted to retain the label "Big Island" for promotional and identification purposes. Some local leaders were advocating that the Hawai'i Visitors Bureau and the state stop calling Hawai'i County "the Big Island." They feel the island should be called "Hawai'i Island." Citing tourism promotions using the phrase "Big Island" as meaningless and confusing, proponents noted that the island suffers from a lack of identity because it shares the same name as the state. This is the latest go-around on the issue of what to call the "Big Island" which seems to get revived every few years. Over the years, the island has been known as "The Volcano Island," "The Orchid Island," and most commonly, "The Big Island." Various proponents have pushed labels like "The Island of Hawai'i," "Hawai'i Island," "Hawai'i-The Island," "Hawai'i, Hawai'i" (like New York, New York), "The Big Island of Hawai'i," and "Hawai'i-The Big Island."

One of the most unique references noted recently was a book title using the old name "Owhyhee," the phonetic spelling of Hawai'i from the journals of Captain James Cook, the first European to "discover" the islands in 1778. For the record, the telephone directory lists some 160 businesses and organizations under the name "Hawai'i" or

"Hawai'i Island" and some 130 under the name "Big Island." We probably haven't yet heard the last of the debate as to what name we shall use in referring to this island.

Hawai'i Winter League Baseball Scheduled
Visiting and resident baseball fans will enjoy taking in games of the new Hawai'i Winter League professional baseball organization. The new league recently announced its formal organization and schedule. The league will consist of top players from the AA and A minor leagues of the United States, Japan and Korea. These young and rising professional players will be drafted into four Hawai'i teams: the Honolulu Sharks, Kauai Emeralds, Maui Sting Rays and the Hilo Stars. In Hilo, the games will be played at the University of Hawai'i-Hilo Vulcan Field. The opening game will be on October 13th. in Hilo with the Honolulu Sharks against the Hilo Stars. The 54-game schedule will go through mid-December. Season tickets can be purchased from Hawai'i Winter Baseball, 1210 Auahi Street, Suite 231, Honolulu, HI 9681-4, or call 808/592-2255. For more information on the Hilo Stars or for tickets, call 808/969-9033.

New Interisland Terminal In Use at Honolulu Airport

Passengers enroute to Hilo or Kona on the Big Island will appreciate Honolulu Airport's newest addition, the \$130 million interisland terminal which opened this summer. The terminal, adjacent to the main overseas terminal, houses operations for Aloha and Hawaiian Airlines and Island Air (an Aloha subsidiary). The spacious air-conditioned facility has some 300,000 sq. ft. of space. It has baggage-claim and ground transportation facilities, airline check-in and ticket counters, restaurant, waiting areas and main terminal bus stations, in addition to four levels for public parking for 1800 cars. The structure replaces the old Aloha terminal built in 1961 which will be torn down and rebuilt with an additional six more airline gates. In the meantime, Hawaiian Airlines will continue to use its more recent terminal until all the new gates are built. The Hawaiian terminal will then be used by the smaller commuter airlines. The new terminal makes travel to the Neighbor Islands much more convenient and comfortable.

New Interisland Airline Scheduled

Mahalo Airlines was scheduled to begin service between the islands in October. The fledgling airline was to begin service with F-27 turboprop aircraft with lower fares ranging from \$40-45 one-way. The F-27 aircraft carries 44-50 passengers and has low operational costs. The airline was to provide several daily flights between Honolulu and Kauai, Maui and Kona and hopes to expand its operations to Lanai and Molokai as demand grows. The airline is the latest attempt to establish a third major interisland air carrier to compete with Aloha and Hawaiian. Mid-Pacific Airlines in 1981 and Discovery Airways in 1990 both had short-lived operations. For reservations call 808/833-5555.

New Puna Park Fills Recreational Need

The Big Island's rural Puna district has a new much-needed recreational facility. Puala'a Park, two and a half miles south of the junction of Highways 132 and 137 on the Kapoho Coast southeast of Pahoa town, opened for use this summer. The public recreational beach park replaces those lost to lava flows at Kalapana during the last couple of years. The three-acre park features a half-acre pond fed by thermal freshwater springs which mix with seawater. Currently the park, jointly operated and maintained by the County of Hawai'i and Puna Friends of the Park, has limited facilities such as portable restrooms and no drinking water. But the facility provides a place for people of Puna to visit the beach, swim, picnic and enjoy the outdoors. The park was purchased with the help of a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant which provided 75 percent funding to replace the other parks destroyed by the Kilauea eruption and lava flows. It is hoped that additional improvements can be made to make the new park fully functional.

Fair Wind Sets New Cruises

The *Fair Wind*, (808/322-2788) 78-7128 Kaleiopapa Street, Keauhou Bay, Kona, HI 96740, is a sailing trimaran offering two daily snorkel and scuba diving cruises with snorkeling gear and instruction included. A luncheon cruise departs at 9AM and returns at 1:30PM. Included are a continental breakfast, cheese or veggie burgers, fresh island fruit, punch and a no host bar. The cruise visits Kealahou Bay for 2 1/2 hours. Adults, \$59, children (5-12 yrs) \$33, toddlers free. The afternoon cruise departs at 1:45PM and returns at 4:45PM. It includes snacks and a no host bar. Adults, \$40, children (5-12 yrs) \$24, toddlers free. Extra charges for scuba tanks and gear; harbor users fee and taxes not included.

Big Island Brewery Planned

Hawai'i Brewing Development Company recently announced plans to establish a beer brewery in Kaaau near Hilo. The county planning commission granted a special permit for the company to proceed with its plans for the brewery, water and

soft drink bottling facility plus visitor center at a 14.5 acre site of a former slaughterhouse. The \$7 million renovated facility would employ up to 40 people and initially produce 50,000 barrels or 700,000 cases of beer annually. The brew would be a light lager-style beer and would be promoted as a premium product while being competitive in price. The beer would be produced using pure water from deep aquifer wells under the island. The facility would include a 200-seat beer garden for tasting three-ounce samples of beer at the end of plant tours for visitors and residents. The visitor center would operate between 7 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. The product would be primarily marketed locally and eventually exported off-island.

ACCOMMODATIONS UPDATE

Hyatt Regency Waikoloa on the Big Island's Kohala Coast recently won industry recognition and awards. *Honolulu Magazine* named the resort recipient of its "Best Neighbor Island Resort to Take the Family" award. The award is determined by the readers of the magazine. In addition, the resort has been named as a recipient of the "Gold Tee" award from *Meetings and Conventions* magazine. A national panel of industry judges rated the resort's golf course, meeting facilities and accommodations on a variety of criteria. According to the magazine, the "Gold Tee" award allows readers to recognize resort properties that combine excellence in both meetings and golf facilities.

Mauna Lani Point, 2 Kaniolu Drive, Mauna Lani Resort, Kohala Coast, HI 96743; reservations Classic Resorts 1-800-542-6284 or 808/885-5022; FAX 808/885-5015. This luxurious condo complex is situated on 19 ocean front acres overlooking the fabled Ocean Hazard sixth hole of the Francis H. Brown South Golf Course at Mauna Lani Resort. 1BR/2BR/3BR very spacious and comfortable units have a/c, full kitchens, private lanais, in-unit laundry and parking. Complete recreation facilities include sauna, jacuzzi, barbecues, swimming pool and outdoor kitchen/entertainment area. Deep sea fishing, charters, scuba diving, helicopter tours and health club are all available. Guests enjoy private beach facilities at Makaiwa Beach and can make room charges at resort's golf and tennis recreational facilities and acclaimed restaurants such as The Gallery, Knickers and Beach Club. In addition, the dining facilities of the Ritz-Carlton Mauna Lani and Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows are available. Daily rates: low season (April to mid-December), fairway view \$210-275, ocean view \$240-420; high season (January-March), fairway view \$240-325, ocean view \$310-480. 3-night minimum stay in high season, none in low season.

Several new bed & breakfast operations have opened recently, joining the mega-growth trend of new B&Bs around the island the last couple of years. Here's a rundown:



BEYOND HAWAII -- Fall 1993

Editor: John Penisten

Bernese Oberland:

A Slice of Traditional Switzerland

The Bernese Oberland area provides a superb introduction to the scenic beauty and pastoral nature of traditional alpine Switzerland. For first-time visitors especially, the Bernese Oberland with its splendid alps, valleys, chalets, serene villages and friendly people provides a memorable travel experience.

On my recent first visit to Switzerland, I spent a few days in the village of Grindelwald, high up in the alps, getting to know the area. Grindelwald is known as the "Village of Glaciers," an apt reference to the numerous glaciers in the surrounding mountain gorges. It is a stereotype storybook setting of a secluded alpine village deep in the heart of the Swiss Alps.

As is often the case, first impressions are the most lasting, and mine of Grindelwald are of sparkling spring days spent walking through the green valleys and flower-filled mountain meadows totally awestruck by the grandeur of springtime in the Alps.

After the 11-hour Swissair flight from Los Angeles, I overnighted in Zurich. Next day, I set out for Grindelwald via the Swiss railway. Grindelwald is just 120 miles southwest of Zurich, a few hours by rail. I marveled at the passing scenery of neat farms, fields and country villages as the train traveled through to Interlaken. At Interlaken I changed trains to take the local cog-wheel train on the steep ascent up the valley the final 15 miles to Grindelwald, arriving there at mid-day.

Grindelwald is in a vast sweeping valley at the foot of the Alps in the heart of the famed Jungfrau Region. Among the awesome alpine peaks here are the Wetterhorn (11,100 ft.), the Eiger North Face (11,900 ft.), the Finsteraarhorn (12,800 ft.), Monch (12,300 ft.) and the Jungfrau (12,400 ft.).

Grindelwald (pop. 3,850) is a complete year-around resort. In winter, it is a popular ski resort and in summer a center for hikers, strollers and nature lovers. It has some 48 hotels of all budget ranges plus vacation apartments, hostels and campgrounds. In the peak winter ski season, thousands flock to the slopes of First, Kleine Scheidegg, Männlichen and Schilthorn. Skiers choose from 45 lifts, cable cars and trains servicing some 115 miles of runs. Grindelwald in winter is transformed into a complete ski center including winter walking trails, cross-country runs, sled-toboggan runs, Swiss Ski School-Ski Kindergarten, ice-skating and a complete sports-center including indoor pool.

In the summer season, almost as many visitors come to Grindelwald just to enjoy the pristine environment and scenic beauty of the

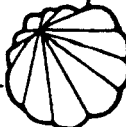
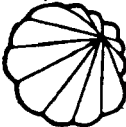
Jungfrau region. In summer, there are some 200 miles of marked walking and hiking trails throughout the area plus some 50 miles of mountain-bike routes. Visitors can choose from 15 mountain trains, chair lifts or gondolas for various excursions and to take in the area's spectacular scenic attractions. Grindelwald also has a summer mountaineering center, alpine guides, nature trails, fishing, paragliding, and the sports center provides full services including a swimming pool, tennis and more.

My visit to Grindelwald was in early May, after the ski season and before the summer season began. It was a dazzling time to be there. The valley was bursting forth in the colors of spring with fruit trees in blossom, alpine flowers filling the meadows and pastures and people preparing vegetable gardens next to their chalets. I followed several of the walking trails up the valley, passing by country chalets, barns and herds of contented cows grazing in the lush new greenery of the alpine spring.

There are several excellent excursions from Grindelwald. Perhaps the most popular is the cog-wheel train to the Jungfraujoch-Top of Europe. The railway climbs from Kleine Scheidegg and tunnels through several miles of the north walls of Eiger and Monch to the highest train station in Europe. At the visitors' center, there are magnificent views of the Aletsch Glacier, Europe's longest, the Sphinx Terrace, High Alpine Research Exhibit and the Ice-Palace inside the glacier.

Other special excursions include Pfings-tegg, a short aerial cable gondola lift ride to hiking trails to lower and upper Grindelwald glaciers; Bussalp, a 35-minute bus ride through typical alpine landscape to trailheads; Grosse Scheidegg, a 40-minute bus ride to the pass which separates the valley of Grindelwald from the Rosenlauri Valley; Schilthorn, the longest aerial cableway of the Alps which leads to the Piz Gloria Peak and revolving restaurant; Schynige Platte, a romantic train ride from the village of Wilderswil, taking in the entire Jungfrau Region, lakes, and unique Alpine Garden. There are other excursions almost too numerous to mention. Many of these require a nominal train, bus or lift fee but are well worth it. One option is to purchase a Berner Oberland Regional Pass allowing 15 days of holiday travel on trains, boats and busses throughout the region.

Whatever the season you visit the Bernese Oberland, and in particular Grindelwald, you're assured of a spectacular travel experience that will introduce you to the Switzerland you've always heard about. I know for certain that the few days I spent in Grindelwald in early spring weren't nearly enough.





Swiss Tips: In transiting Zurich overnight, I stayed at the deluxe **Dolder Grand Hotel**, Kurhausstrasse 65, CH-8032 Zurich, considered by some to be one of Europe's best hotels. The five-star hotel dates from 1899 and is built in the grand manor-house style. Rates began at US\$200 per night. The house dining room, La Rotonde, serves superb Swiss and French cuisine.

In Grindelwald, I stayed at **Hostellerie Eiger**, CH-3818, Grindelwald, located in the heart of the village three blocks from the train station, easy access to all attractions. Clean comfortable rooms have seasonal rates ranging from US\$75-210, single or double. The hotel has a good steak-house restaurant.

For information, contact your travel agent, or Swissair at 1-800-221-6644; or, Swiss National Tourist Office, 222 No. Sepulveda Blvd. #1570, El Segundo, CA 90245, 310/335-5980; or Tourist Office Bernese Oberland, Jungfraustrasse 38, CH-3800 Interlaken, Switzerland; or, Tourist Office Grindelwald, CH-3818 Grindelwald, Switzerland.

Uluru National Park, Australia

In all the empty vastness of Australia's famed outback, there are few attractions for visitors. Despite the isolation, harsh environment and extreme desert heat, there is one attraction to which intrepid travelers are drawn: Uluru.

Uluru, as the aborigine people know it and Ayer's Rock to the rest of the world, lies calm and serene on the vast floor of the outback desert miles from anywhere. The nearest town, Alice Springs (pop. 25,000) is 280 miles away. Sydney, Australia's main international gateway, lies some 1800 miles southeast. There are daily jet services to Ayers Rock Resort at Yulara. Visitors can also fly into Alice Springs and do the 5-hour drive (rental car or tour bus) through the desert to the park, a good way to get a feel for the outback environment.

Visitors to Uluru stay at Ayers Rock Resort at Yulara, a modern complete village composed of three hotels and lodges (first-class and budget), vacation apartments, campgrounds for tents and campervans, restaurants, a small full-service shopping center, gas station and full facilities. Yulara is 12 miles from Uluru and about 35 miles from the Olgas.

It's easy to see why the area is called the "Red Center." The red sandy soil provides a dramatic background to the subtle green, gray, and brown muted tones of the sparse vegetation against the backdrop of bright blue desert sky. One of the outstanding features of the outback is the degree of peace and tranquility that permeates the region. A stroll along any of the trails is an experience in the sounds of silence, the sounds of the desert.

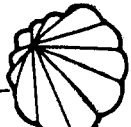
Uluru has a fascinating and mysterious allure that attracts visitors today as it has generations of aborigine people who consider it sacred. The park is owned by the Anangu aborigine people who lease the park to the Australian National Parks Service. The park contains the spectacular geological formations of Uluru and the Olgas plus numerous species of desert flora and fauna. Uluru has become one of Australia's most identifiable symbols and along with the nearby Olgas, another unusual rock formation, are the main features of Uluru National Park. In 1987, Uluru National Park was made a part of the United Nations World Heritage Sites and is also one of twelve Australian Biosphere Reserves.

Visitors have a number of ways to explore the park's unique geology and ecology. There are numerous self-guided hiking trails and nature walks throughout the area. Visitors can also take one of the many ranger-guided walks around Ayers Rock or the Olgas. One walk is the Edible Desert which lets guests discover the various bush foods found in the desert. Another is conducted by an aborigine guide who introduces the aboriginal way of survival in the desert. Most of these walks are free and reservations made through the park ranger's station.

But perhaps the single greatest adventure at Uluru is "The Climb" up the monolith itself. Uluru is the world's largest monolith at two miles long, 1 1/2 miles wide and 1,143 ft. high. Most visitors to Uluru come specifically to make the climb to Ayer's Rock summit. The climb is made up one of the easier slopes of the rock but it is still a difficult climb and not for people with heart problems or who are otherwise unfit. There is a safety chain to assist climbers but normal precautions should be taken along with water for the climb. Despite the difficulty, many do make it and revel in the adventure and panoramic views from the top of the surrounding outback terrain.

Uluru Travel Tips: I flew to Australia on **Continental Airlines** (reservations/information 1-800-231-0856, your local Continental office or your travel agent) which is currently the only U.S. carrier providing direct service to Australia from the U.S. west coast and Hawai'i. In Sydney, I connected to **Australian Airlines** for the flight to Alice Springs using their special Down Under visitor fares. I used a rental car for the drive to Uluru and back to Alice Springs, a pleasant trip through the outback.

For information, contact: Ayers Rock Resort, P.O.Box 46, Yulara, Northern Territory 0872, Australia; or, Northern Territory Tourist Commission, 67 Stuart Highway North, P.O.Box 2532, Alice Springs, NT 0871, Australia; or Australian Tourist Commission, 2121 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1200, Los Angeles, CA 90067, 310/552-1988 or FAX 310/552-1215.





Haili House Inn, 239 Haili Street, Hilo, HI 96720, 808/969-7378, is located on the edge of historic downtown Hilo. It is adjacent to Lyman House Museum and across from St. Joseph's Church, close to shops, restaurants, farmers' market and many of Hilo's attractions. This 1922-vintage home has been carefully restored and offers comfortable rooms with nostalgic '40's-50's Hawaiiana decor. Five guestrooms have queen beds and either half or full bath. Rates are \$75 for half-bath, \$89 for full bath. \$15 for extra person.

Lokahi Lodge, P.O.Box 7, Volcano, HI 96785, 1-800-457-6924, or 808/985-8647. The Lodge features rooms with double beds, private entrance, wrap-around lanais, and parlor with wood-stove for cool Volcano evenings. Located a mile from the national park in a lush ohia forest with varied activities available like biking, birdwatching, hiking, golf and more. Rates are \$65 per night, \$15 per extra person.

Hale Kukui, P.O.Box 5044, Kukuihaele, HI 96727, 1-800-444-7130 or 808/775-7130. The cottage is located on 4.2 acres of oceanview overlooking the majestic Waipio Valley and bluffs, waterfalls and tropical valleys. Waipio activities available include hiking in tropical rainforest, biking, swimming, surfing, horseback rides, mule wagon rides and 4x4 vehicle tours. Located in lush landscaped grounds with a tropical setting. Studio and 2BR units range from \$75-95 per night, or combined sleeps 6-10 for \$150 per night.

The following operations are all available through **Hawaii's Best Bed & Breakfasts**, P.O.Box 563, Kamuela, HI 96743, 1-800-262-9912, or 808/85-4550, FAX 808/885-0550.

Jenny's Country Cottage, is a nicely restored cottage almost a century old. It features traditional koa furniture, a four-poster bed and decor reflecting a quiet country ambiance. Located just two miles from Waimea town. Sleeps four, \$85 nightly for two.

Hale Malia, is just two miles south of Kailua-Kona and is on an oceanfront location. The modern well-furnished home has two guestrooms, one which opens onto a wide veranda overlooking the sea. Each room sleeps two, \$70-90 nightly.

Hale Pueo, is located upslope at the 1800 ft. level of Mount Hualalai, about 15 minutes from Kailua-Kona town. The contemporary home features a downstairs guest studio with bright decor and ambiance. A pleasant lanai offers great views of the west Hawai'i coast and sunsets. Sleeps four, \$80 nightly, \$15 extra person.

Puanani, features lovely landscaped gardens and a guest suite which opens to a garden lanai, swimming pool, cabana and barbeque area. There are

also great views of west Hawai'i coast sunsets. Sleeps three, \$90 double, \$15 extra person.

RESTAURANT UPDATE

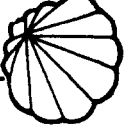
Gloria's Garden Cafe on Keawe Street downtown, **JP's Restaurant** on Banyan Drive and **Lai Lai Kitchen** on Kilauea Avenue in Hilo, have all closed. **Hartwell's** at Hale Kea in Waimea is closed for renovation and is to reopen at the end of the year. **Charlie's Cafe** is the new name for Kawili Cafe. They still have basically the same menu of local-style favorites for breakfast, lunch and dinner. **Edward's at the Terrace** (322-1434) is the new name for The Terrace restaurant in the Kanaloa at Kona Condominiums. The menu features Mediterranean specials along with beef, pork, lamb and seafood dishes. Open for breakfast 8-11AM, lunch 11AM-2PM, dinner 5-9PM.

Anirang Lunch Korean Bar-B-Q, (969-7151) 165 E. Kawili Street, across from the Hawai'i Community College campus is the newest dining spot in Hilo. They specialize in Korean bar-b-q, plate lunches, spicy soups and special burgers. The best items are bulgogi (charbroiled lean beef), kalbi short ribs, yukejang spicy soup, and bulgogi kimchee burger. The menu has many more items plus daily steam table buffet selections. Open Mon-Fri 9AM - 8PM, Sat 10:30AM - 8PM, closed Sun. Inexpensive.

Big Island Steak House, (885-8805) in Kings' Shops complex, Waikoloa Beach Resort, Kohala Coast, has decor reflecting the romantic Polynesian image of 1950's movies and nostalgic travel posters from Hawai'i's early days. The menu features fresh Big Island produce, seafood and certified Angus beef. House specials include prime rib and bar-b-q Hawaiian-style ribs plus appetizers like crab cakes, smoked marlin pate and much more. Open nightly for dinner from 5-10PM. Moderate.

Highlands Barbeque & Bar, (883-8132) in the Waikoloa Village Shopping Center recently reopened under new management. The menu is distinctly Texas barbeque with features like Texas chili, mesquite barbeque beef, chicken and pork, ribs, steaks and burgers. Open daily 11AM - 9PM for continuous lunch-dinner. Bar is open until 2AM. Moderate.

The Gourmet Room, (933-3431) 1175 Manono Street, Hilo, Hawai'i Community College cafeteria, is operated by the college's Food Services Program. Lunch is prepared and served weekdays during the academic year from September to April from 12 Noon-1:00PM by the students enrolled in the program. The menu changes daily and usually offer a choice of entrees. A complete lunch usually costs less than \$5.00 per person. The food and service are a great value for the money. It's probably one of the least known best lunch deals in Hilo. Open to the public; reservations suggested.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct 23 -- Annual Hilo Macadamia Nut Festival, Kaiko'o Mall, 9AM - 6PM; includes parade through downtown Hilo, cooking demonstrations, recipe contest, sweepstakes drawings, industry exhibits, arts & crafts fair, Hawaiian music program, childrens' games, food booths and more; free.

Nov 5-7 -- Fourth Annual King's Cup, amateur golf invitational tournament at Waikoloa Beach Resort golf course, Waikoloa; for information, call 808/885-4647.

Nov 11-13 -- 23rd Annual Kona Coffee Cultural Festival, Kailua-Kona; celebrates the harvest of the only U.S. commercially grown coffee; includes a coffee cupping and picking contest, scholarship pageant, parade, recipe contest, arts and crafts displays, ethnic food booths, entertainment and coffee mill tours; Call 808/322-4430

Nov 26-28 -- Ultraman Endurance Challenge, a triathlon event covering 320 miles over three days includes a 6:2 mile swim, 261.4 mile bike ride and a 52.4 mile run on Big Island courses; for information call 808/326-7946.

A Quarterly Newsletter published by
PARADISE PUBLICATIONS
Edited by John Penisten
8110 S.W. Wareham
Portland, OR 97223

ISSN 1042-8046



Nov 29-Dec 4 -- Mauna Kea Beach Hotel Annual Invitational Golf Tournament; a 54-hole medal play for men and 36-hole medal play for women; call 808/882-7222.

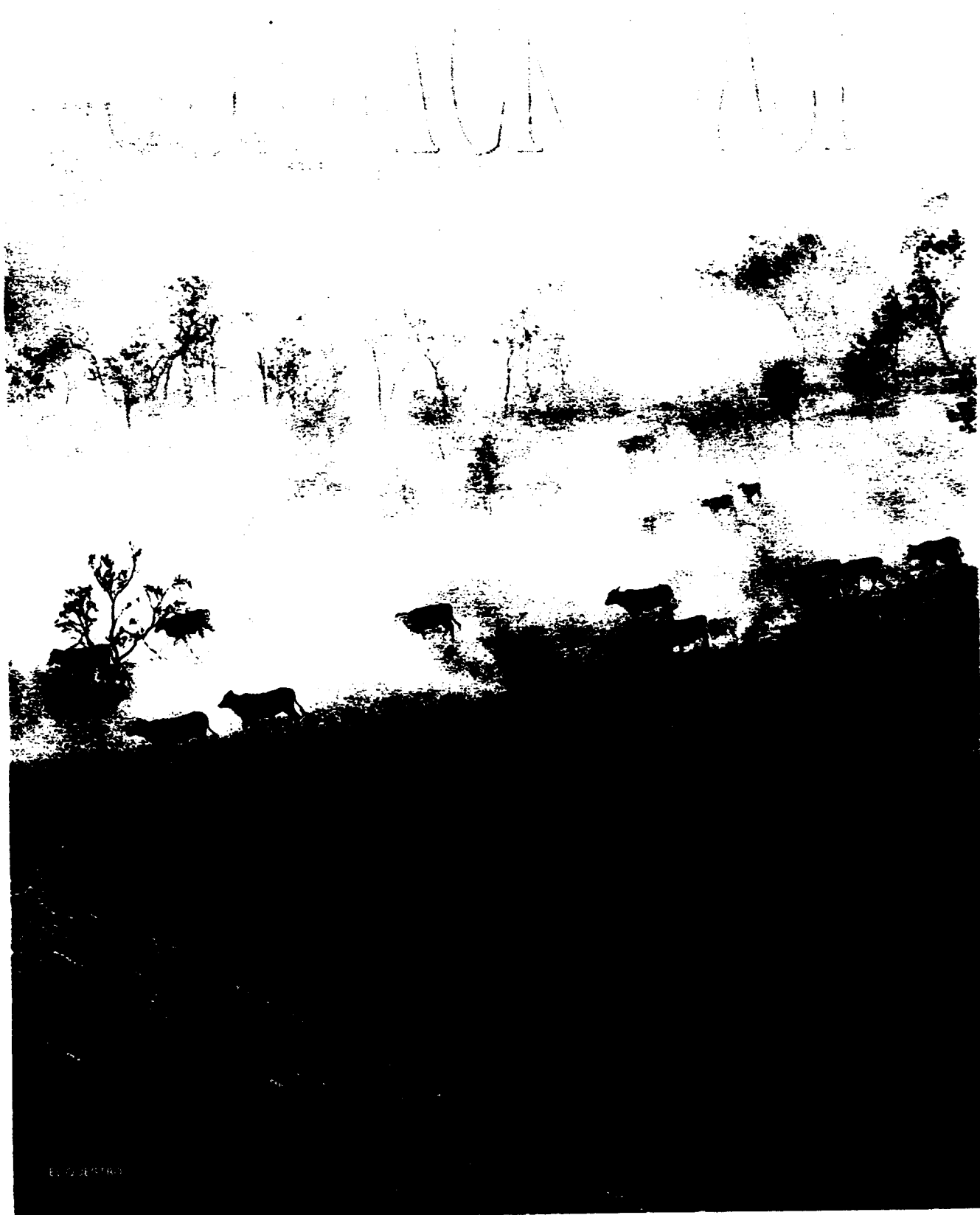
Dec 11-26 -- Gingerbread Wonderland and "Twelve Days of Hawaiian Christmas" at Mauna Lani Bay Hotel, Kohala Coast, features display of incredible edible gingerbread creations, a silent auction for benefit of the Make-A-Wish Hawai'i Foundation, demonstrations, artists and dancers and Hawaiian customs; call 808/885-6622

News and events to be publicized or other contributions to *Hawai'i-The Big Island Update* can be sent directly to John Penisten-Editor, 570 Iwalani Street, Hilo, HI 96720; or call 808/959-6986.

Available from Paradise Publications, **MAUI: A PARADISE FAMILY GUIDE, KAUAI: A PARADISE FAMILY GUIDE and HAWAII: THE BIG ISLAND: A PARADISE FAMILY GUIDE** \$12.95 each plus \$3 shipping. Send for a free catalog showing all the publications and VHS videos on Hawai'i that are available thru **PARADISE PUBLICATIONS, 8110 SW WAREHAM, PORTLAND, OR 97223. (503) 246-1555.** Newsletter subscriptions are \$10 per year.

Single copies \$2.50 / Yearly subscription \$10 in the U.S.
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AUSTRALIA





Thai's orchids are grown specially for us and given fresh to over 10,000 passengers every day. These beautiful blooms reflect the exotic beauty of Thailand and the genuine warmth and hospitality of its people.



On Thai, we've turned hospitality into an art form and called it Royal Orchid Service. It stands for the best of everything, from the way you are served to what you are served. Little wonder we've won top awards from such highly regarded magazines as Executive Travel and Air Transport World.



At Thai International, we've taken state of the art technology and centuries old traditions and woven them into an airline that's Smooth as Silk



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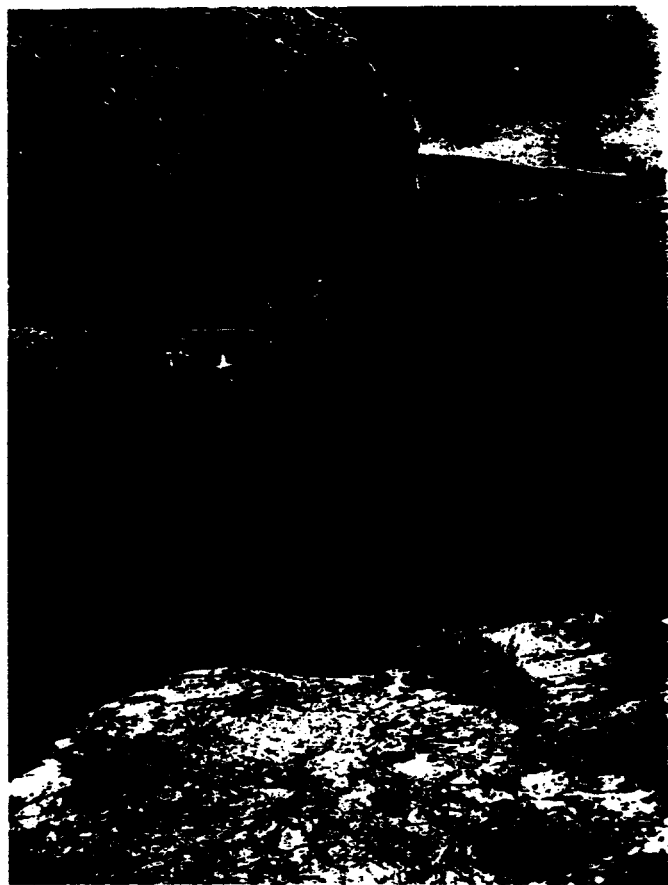


From inside the train operator's window, the land looks like the cracked and buckled crust of a pie, each bit in the seven Rings of dried-out granite and speckle the rubble desert and where a fragmented mountain range appears to be a giant, eroded, rolling plateau in heat exhaustion.

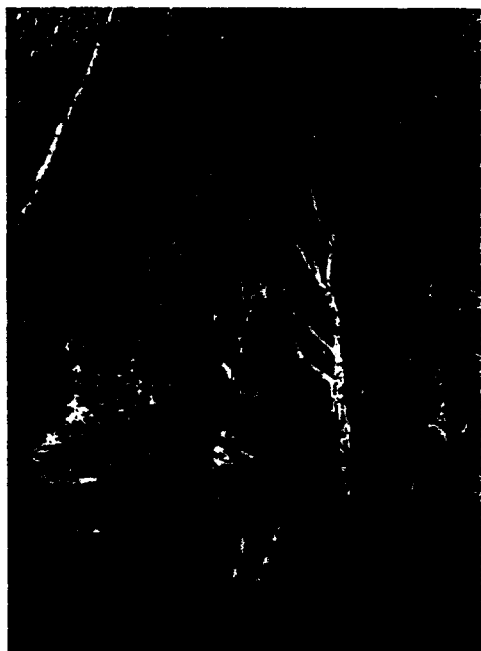
As part of a plan to make the entire station a tourist destination, there are five levels of accommodation on El Questro. Inexpensive river campsites have been established along the Pentecost River; a station camp is available for backpackers; bush cabins at Emma Gorge have modern facilities, a pool, and restaurant; a self-contained family bungalow is located at the station center, where there's a general store for anyone to use; and then there's the Homestead.

The Homestead is yours for a week — if you and eleven others have \$25,000 to spend (or \$400 per person for a minimum of two nights). For that price, one gets complete run of the station, including guided walks through prehistoric gorges, horseback rides into cattle country, fine dining on ridgetops, dips in natural hot springs, camel treks into the bush, and ringside seats for cattle mustering and stockmen at work. (The only extra is the helicopter.)

Best of all, one gets the Homestead, which comes into view as Richard turns his bird for home. It's an oasis of color on a reddish-brown palette — a large square of green lawn frames the deep-blue water of the swimming pool and the white roofs of the Homestead. Just as startling is its location — built on top of a 30-meter gorge above the Chamberlain River,



"Secret" spots along the Pentecost River have rarely seen the tread of man's feet. Because the fish have seldom seen fishermen, they're ready for the hook.



EL QUESTRO (BOTH)

the huge house hangs over a cliff like a giant bushman thirsting for a drink.

After the helicopter touches down, we walk straight to one of the wide verandas where drinks and a meal are already waiting. Settling into a comfortable wicker chair, cocktail in hand, we watch the sun turn red as it's consumed by the massive horizon. For a few twilight moments, the ochre landscape blazes to crimson before fading to deep purple. It's the end of another "tough" day on our cattle station.

The illusion is only slightly disturbed when the

real owner, 26-year-old Englishman Will Burrell, and his Australian partner and fiancée, Celia Shelmerdine, sit down beside us and talk about their pride and joy — El Questro. Both are lean, good-looking, and seared golden by the intense Kimberley sun.

"The concept is that guests go out during the day, and they explore, they get hot, they get dusty," Will says, slapping his faded jeans and raising some dust to make his point. "Then they come back to the Homestead, this oasis of luxury in the Outback."

Will should know about luxury — in every clipped syllable and crisp vowel of his refined accent can be heard the echoes of Eton and an aristocrat heritage. His family has been part of Britain's landed gentry since the 11th century, and his uncle is a baron. But Will's ties with Australia are also deep — his great-grandfather, Lord Denman, was Australia's governor-general in 1911 and his mother is Australian. Will spent many holidays in Australia, including a stint as a jackaroo in New South Wales, running cattle and playing stockman. That's when he de-

cided he wanted to own a cattle station.

Choosing El Questro out of numerous other stations was easy once he and Celia saw it. They looked past the rundown station and saw instead the property's natural beauty of gorges, rivers, and ranges. It would be the ideal place to create a luxury hideaway for those wanting complete privacy and a taste of the real Australian Outback.

"In the Homestead, we wanted to create a sophisticated yet relaxed atmosphere," Celia says. From her quick smile and ready charm, Celia can easily be identified as a born-and-bred Aussie.

Her peers in Melbourne would be impressed with what she and Will have raised from out of the red desert dust. The Homestead is actually four buildings connected by covered pine walkways. Trelises of jasmine and bougainvillea scent the air, while orange and lemon trees supposedly help keep mosquitoes away. A rain tree in the middle of the circular drive greets guests, while at the back of the house are some African mahogany trees and palms. All around is the green lawn that epitomizes Will and Celia's determination to make a mark on the desert landscape.

The heart of the Homestead is the cavernous 14-meter-square main hall used as living room, dining room, and general gathering place.



The Kimberley is broken up by the Cockburn Range, which runs through El Questro — creating spectacular gorges, canyons, and escarpments.

With a terra cotta tiled floor and screens rather than windows on all sides, the room makes one feel as if the vast and expansive Kimberley has been tamed and brought indoors. Tropical Australian and Indonesian furniture create an early colonial style, while a sunken lounge and large fireplace give the massive space intimacy and warmth.

The Homestead can accommodate up to 12 guests in six luxury bedrooms, which contain Asian bamboo furniture, carved head-

boards, and a variety of antiques. Each has its own bathroom as well as private veranda, perfect for catching a breeze or some sun.

Will and Celia leave the everyday running of the household to Andrew and Fiona Balaam. As hosts of the Homestead, they prepare five-star cuisine at every meal — with an emphasis on fresh fruits, vegetables, and incredible melons available from the nearby Ord River Irrigation Scheme. Also gracing the table is station-slaughtered Kimberley beef and local fa-

vorites like catfish, crocodile, barramundi, and a small prawn-like creature called a cherabin. A fully stocked bar with vintage Australian wines complement any meal.

All this luxury would be uncommon in most places, but it's practically a miracle out here in the remote Kimberley — where the closest store is an hour's dirt-road drive away, and the closest major city, Darwin, is 900 kilometers to the northeast. Some longtime residents joke that, until recently, a man in the Kimberley was considered well-off if he had a horse and a swag (bedroll).

That's still not too far off the mark for

this sprawling, arid 337,500-square-kilometer region in the northwestern part of Australia (the top end of the state of Western Australia). Home to only 25,000 people, the Kimberley is broken up by the Cockburn Range, which runs through El Questro — creating spectacular gorges, canyons, and escarpments. It also makes for a rugged and merciless terrain.

In such a harsh, extreme region, it seems fitting that there are just two seasons to the year — the Wet and the Dry. The Wet, which runs from November to April, can have such major rainstorms that roads become impassable and numerous places inaccessible. Temperatures can soar well above 37°C (100°F). It also means spectacular waterfalls and the incredible sight of a desert come to life.

The Dry, between May and October, tries to rob the land of all the moisture received in the Wet. It usually succeeds. But this also means a string of cloudless, perfect days, with daytime temperatures in only the high 20s or low 30s Celsius (80s or low 90s Fahrenheit) — nights, though, can be downright cold.

Getting to El Questro gives a good indication of what the Kimberley is like. The Homestead is approximately 100 kilometers from the small towns of Kununurra and Wyndham, just off the infamous Gibb River Road (an old cattle-hauling track that was paved only a few years ago). From this road, visitors to the Homestead then bounce along a 16-kilometer washboard-type dirt track before fording a 100-meter wide river. This is the kind of country four-wheel-drive was invented for.

The difficulty in reaching the station's house-upon-the-cliff seems to make sleep on the first night come all the more easily. One drifts off to sleep as a cool evening breeze, scented with jasmine, wafts through the room.

In the morning, it's difficult to crawl out from under the comfortable down-quilt, where one awakes to the smell of freshly brewed



JOHN HAY



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coffee and homemade muffins. But the clattering of cockatoos, the murmur of the river below, and the inviting morning sun become too irresistible.

The revitalized property now has about 6,000 head of cattle that roam the dry country. If it's mustering time, one is welcome to ride with the stockmen (either on horseback or in a rough-and-tumble pickup truck), or just sit on a fence rail and watch them

and turned it upside down. With its roots now dangling in the air, the tree was told that from then on it could only be beautiful twice a year — when its leaves came out and when it blossomed. For the rest of the year, it would stand stark and unwholesome, a tree turned upside down.

An alternative to the El Questro Gorge hike is the easier 40-minute walk from the station's bush cabins through renowned Emma Gorge. Filled with pandanus, ferns, and palms, the gorge has a creek that feeds numerous waterfalls and natural pools perfect for swimming — with no threat of crocodiles. Following the creek is the hiking trail, which twists, turns, and narrows like a snake negotiating a cactus garden. It finally ends at a giant pool fed by a cliff-diving waterfall and surrounded by lush vegetation.

Another worthwhile trip is into Chamberlain Gorge, usually guided by station ranger Glen from Tasmania. He's a bushman with lots of experience — all of which seems reflected in his ever-present

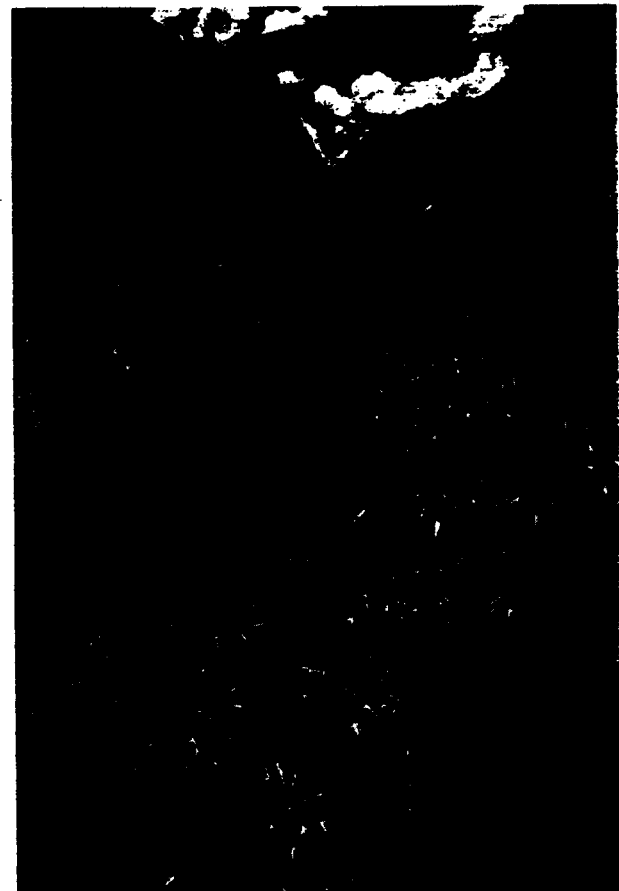
The Wet season in the harsh, extreme region of Kimberley means spectacular waterfalls and the incredible sight of a desert come to life.

work, or share a *smoko* (a rest break) and some billy tea.

El Questro's resident rangers are happy to guide visitors on various walks, rides, fishing trips, and adventures — adding their own colorful tales and yarns whenever the mood hits. By far the most famous and friendly is Buddy Tyson, an extraordinary 60-year-old Aboriginal stockman with a wonderful bearing and eloquence that have earned him the nickname "the black prince." He is a nationally known rodeo clown who has also had roles on Australian television and in film. Nonetheless, Buddy considers himself first and foremost a stockman.

One of the walks Buddy can take a visitor on is to El Questro Gorge, the most challenging of the station's hikes. It follows a narrow spring-fed creek between towering escarpments and through tropical vegetation. With Billy, one gets a true Australian's perspective of nature and its beauty, peppered with stories and legends. Under a sky the color of new blue-jeans, he speaks of the Kimberley's inhabitants — including the crocodile, rock wallaby, Jabiru (an Aboriginal sacred bird that's Australia's only stork), and the fascinating boab tree.

The Australian boab, like its African cousin, is an unwholesome, thick-trunked, spindly-limbed, deciduous tree that only grows in the Kimberley and certain parts of the Northern Territory. According to Aborigine legend, the lowly boab was once a beautiful tree. After the other trees praised it, the boab became so vain that they pleaded with the gods to do something about the conceited tree. In answer, the gods yanked the poor boab from the ground



EL QUESTRO (BOTH)

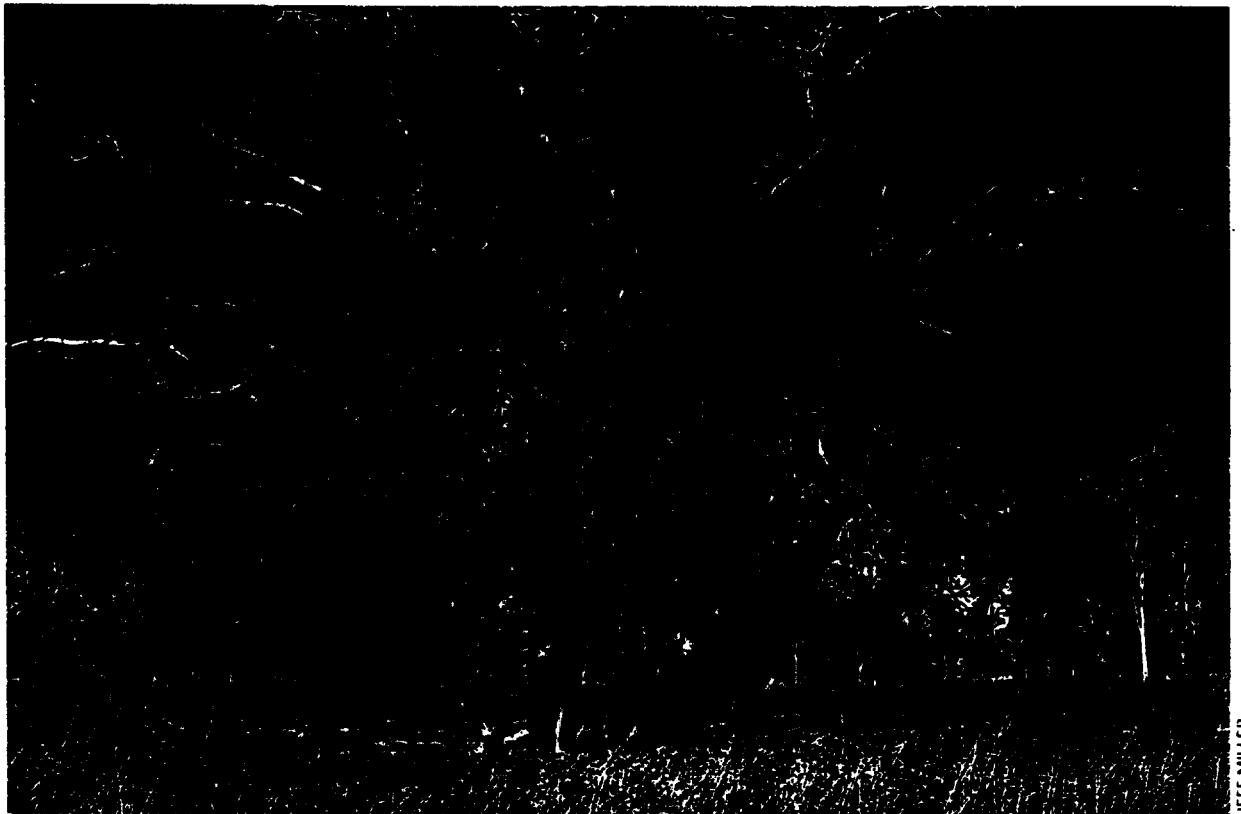
tattered old hat. He'll take one in an aluminum "punt" up the three-kilometer-long waterhole of Chamberlain Gorge to fish, swim, see Aboriginal rock art, or just to do a little hiking and exploring.

Occasionally, he'll cut the boat's electric engine and let the sounds of the gorge take over — a fish jumps, a kookaburra laughs, and the breeze murmurs through the rocks and crevices. The canyon walls, streaked in soft pastels and earthy hues, answer with their

After the other trees praised the boob tree, it became so vain that they pleaded with the gods to do something about the conceited tree.

these fresh and salt waters, one can hook Mangrove jack, bream, catfish, and threadfin salmon. Glen claims that, because the fish have seldom seen fishermen, they're ready for the hook — so ready that in some places, "you have to hide behind a tree to bait your hook."

At the end of the day, it's time to head back to the Homestead, where Andrew and Fiona are whipping up another great meal. They say there's still enough time for a dip in the pool, a good read on your private veranda, or maybe a look over the cliff to see the three "pet" freshwater



JEFF MILLER

ancient silence. High above, lining the ridge tops, gum trees stand like Indians in a Hollywood western. Here, prehistoric history seems to be living just around the next corner.

The rock art of the Wandjina Aborigines is scattered along the cliff walls, and Glen is happy to take one scampering up the rocks for a closer look. He'll even tell about the "Bradshaw" rock-paintings that are thought to be pre-aboriginal.

For fishermen, Glen has lots of fish tales — many about the great-fighting, good-eating Barramundi that prowl through the cool, dark waters of the gorges. El Questro has numerous fishing holes, some of which can only be reached with the help of Richard and his helicopter. Various "secret" spots along the Pentecost, Salmon, King, and Durack rivers have rarely seen the tread of man's feet. In

crocodiles — Charles, Christopher, and Carillo.

As you stand on the cliff ledge and toss the crocs a few slices of bread, you can glance back at the Homestead. The sun is just starting its final dive toward the horizon — burning the land crimson with its fiery descent. The Homestead stands out in stark relief, casting a long, deep shadow that seems to merge with the approaching night.

A sigh of contentment slips out — It's great to be home.■

BLACK ENTERPRISE • OCTOBER 1993 • VOL. 24, NO. 8

**ANNUAL MONEY
MANAGEMENT ISSUE**

ENTREPRENEUR

OCTOBER 1993

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**THE RANSOMS OF OAKLAND
GET A B.E. FINANCIAL MAKEOVER**

Barely a dozen years ago, Australia's wines were thought of as either rough-edged reds or as cheap, sweet and fortified. Then, in the early 1980s, a new and greatly improved generation of Australian wines burst upon the American scene with such force they made us take another taste. We tried them, liked them and have been consuming the wines from "Down Under" ever since.

Australia had no native grapes when European settlers arrived in 1788. But within a few years, the newcomers brought vines and began planting the country's first vineyards. Today, Australia is making its mark with a wide range of well-made, well-known varietal wines—Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Riesling white wines, and Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir and Merlot reds. Many of its finest wines are those made from the two grapes that Australia began planting early last century: Shiraz, the red Syrah of France's Rhone Valley (sometimes labeled Hermitage), and Sémillon, a white grape from France's Bordeaux region.

Australian commercial winemaking began in Hunter Valley, a verdant, rolling region some 120 miles north of Sydney in the state of New South Wales. The state produces 20% of Australia's highest quality wines, while Hunter Valley produces 5%. Tyrrell's, a family-owned winery, exports Long Flats, its inexpensive, everyday wines, as well as its expensive Vat series, especially Vat 47 Chardonnay and Vat 9 Shiraz. Also worth seeking out are McWilliam's Mount Pleasant Sémillon and Pinot Noir, the Rothbury Estate Syrah and Chardonnay, Rosemount Chardonnay and Wyndham Estate Sémillon.

Thirty-five miles northeast of Adelaide, in South Australia, lies the Barossa wine region. Only slightly younger than Hunter Valley, Barossa has been known for its wine-making since the 1840s. Since most of its early settlers were German, the region's villages have a 19th century German appearance, and much of its original plantings were the famous German Riesling grapes.

In sharp contrast to its small, self-contained and pristine villages are the sprawling, giant wineries that moved to Barossa earlier this century and expanded with Australia's 20-year-old wine boom. There are wines from such giants as Penfolds, Australia's largest winery and producers of the country's famous red wine, Grange Hermitage, as well as other fine wines including Bin 707 Cabernet Sauvignon; and Orlando Winery, which exports wines under its Jacob's Creek label and its highest quality wines under the St. Hugo label. Still, in this land of giants, two of Barossa's smaller, family-owned wineries



VINTAGES FROM DOWN UNDER

Australian imports are gaining favor among wine lovers

hold their own. Henschke makes a range of Shiraz, Pinot Noir and Cabernet Sauvignon, while Peter Lehmann has a Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon and a sweet Sémillon Sauternes. There are vineyards in other parts of the country as well, including the states of Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania, an island off the southern coast.

Since Australia is located in the Southern Hemisphere, the farther north you go, the closer you are to the equator. Grapes need warmth to mature, but too much heat

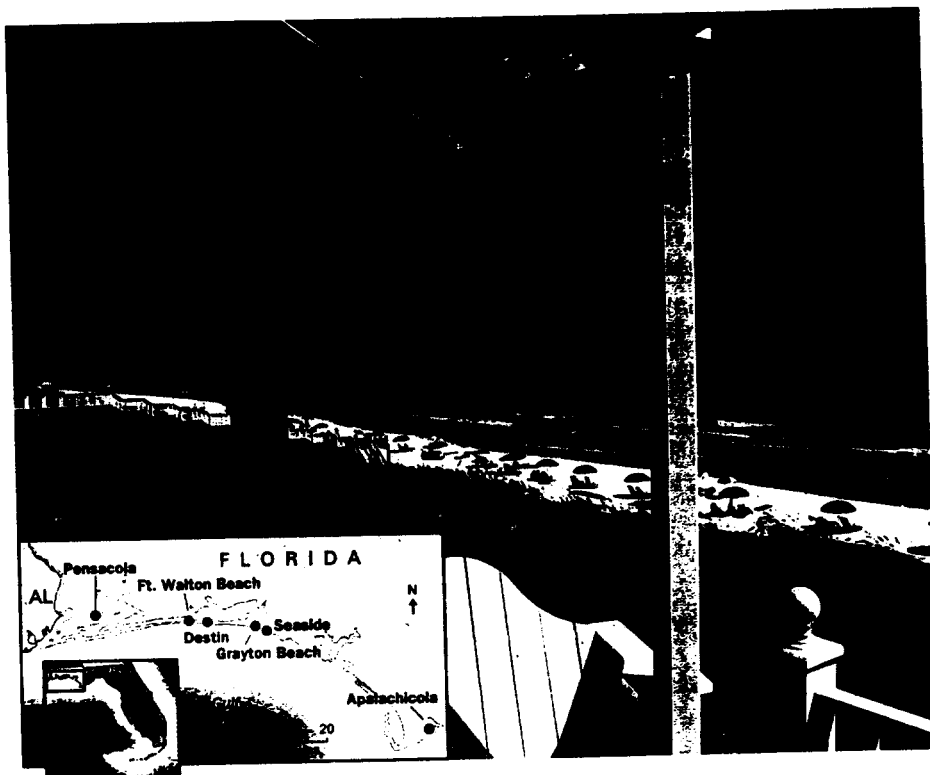
burns out the flavor and quality. In turn, this creates a rougher, more alcoholic wine. As Australia works to refine its winemaking, it is planting more vineyards in its cooler, southern regions.

While Australian wines have gone up in price from the bargain days of the early 1980s, so have their quality. And, if value can be considered as price in relation to quality, Australian wines are still one of the best bargains in town.

BY EUNICE FRIED

Holiday Oct. 1993

TRAVEL ADVISER



Frommer's World

By Arthur Frommer

An October stay in the Florida Panhandle, the thin strip of northwest Florida coast just below Alabama and Georgia, is like a winter one in south Florida, at half the price. The area's expansive, sugary-sand beaches are among the best in the country (Grayton Beach was named America's second-finest in *Travel Holiday's* 1992 beach survey). Among many inviting and diverse towns, my own favorite is Seaside, a planned community designed to re-create the classic beachside villages of the early 1900s, where cars are discouraged, shops are in the town center, and homes are closely clustered. Houses in Seaside start at \$145 a night, or you might day-trip

from Destin, a fishing mecca turned resort town, 20 minutes away. Pleasant motel rooms there rent for only \$40 to \$55 a night. Other moderately priced choices include Pensacola, with its art and history museums, and Apalachicola. Artists have moved there, bed-and-breakfasts have opened, and a small-town atmosphere prevails. Contact the Destin/Fort Walton Beach Tourist Office (800-322-3319 or 904-651-7122), the Pensacola Convention and Visitors Information Center (800-874-1234 or 904-434-1234), or the Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce (904-653-9419).

When domestic airfares rise as sharply as they have in past months, it's inevitable that **low-cost charters** will spring up (they

Bargain of the Month



AUSTRALIA COAST

Try this stunner: two weeks on Australia's sunny Gold Coast—seven nights at Cairns Colonial Club Resort, seven nights in oceanfront rooms at the Iluka Beach Resort. The cost of this package is only \$1,499 per person, double occupancy, including round-trip airfare on Qantas Airlines from Los Angeles or San Francisco plus airport transfers. Optional day trips and sightseeing tours are also available in both locations. The offer is valid for departures through November 1993; travel must be completed by December 10. For more information, contact Golden Age Travelers (Pier 27, the Embarcadero, San Francisco, CA 94111; 800-258-8899 or 415-296-0151).



CANADIAN
VISITING JOURNALISTS PROGRAM

AUSTRALIA REPORT

New Queensland Guides Are For Travellers Who Can't Leave Car At Home

by Jim Dominey

The Australian state of Queensland is acting on its belief that North Americans are a car-loving breed.

The Queensland Travel & Tourism Corporation has

released a series of four motor-ing guides to Australia's "Tropical North." Highlighting the major regions of Matilda Highway, South-East, Central and Far North Queensland, the four guides are designed to entice

North Americans who are used to travelling by car and setting their own itinerary instead of following a package tour.

The guides have already attracted "some pretty good interest," said a spokeswoman for the QTTC. Each is written with an eye towards what the motor-ing traveller needs to know. "They are presented with a lot of practical information," she added.

Detailed road maps, travel-ing distances and types of road surfaces are the cornerstones of the guides, but also included is information on national parks, festivals/events, historical sites, travel tips and accommo-dations.

The Matilda Highway is Queensland's latest "road to ad-venture," opening just last year. It runs from Cunamulla near the New South Wales border north to Karumba in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Highlights along the way include the birthplace of Qantas Airlines, the site where *Waltzing Matilda* was penned and the Stockman's Hall of Fame, which recognizes great men and women who lived in the outback.

The Southeast guide illus-trates a region that ranges from mountain rain forests to the cap-ital city of Brisbane and the world's largest sand island, Fraser Island. The Central guide features information on eco-adventures such as whalewatching, viewing giant green turtles and enjoying the Whitsunday Islands. World Heritage sites such as the outer Great Barrier Reef and the rain forest of Daintree National Park are detailed in the Far North book.

The guides are available by calling the QTTC in Los An-geles at (310) 788-0997.

Another area of growing in-terest among travellers is Aus-tralia's unique Aboriginal cul-ture and tradition. More of the country's native attractions are being developed for the tourist, according to the spokeswoman.

One of the most established groups is the Tjapukai Dance Theatre in Kuranda, only a short drive or scenic train jour-ney from Cairns. The theatre's "Dreamtime Legend" perfor-mance blends traditional Aboriginal culture with modern humour and has gained a reputation internationally. It is popping up on more tour itineraries.

Other Aboriginal attractions



Queensland is home to some of Australia's untamed lands

include the Pamagirri Dancers and the Dreamtime Walk at the new "Rainforestation" attrac-tion in Kuranda, guided rain-forest adventures from Native Guide Safari Tours out of Port Douglas and the three- or four-day Tresize Bush Guide tours through Quinkan Country, which is highlighted by the Aboriginal Quinkan rock art on Cape York Peninsula.

The spokeswoman said Australian officials are en-couraged by the arrivals picture that is shaping up so far this year, even though the North American market is still strug-gling with the deep recession. "Tourism is still very strong," she said. "We have seen an in-crease on last year. That makes everyone hopeful for the future."

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Shore Excursion Reaches Outback

Some of the most untamed and rugged areas of Australia can be seen on one of the many shore excursions available dur-ing the 1994 World Cruise of the *Queen Elizabeth 2*.

Available early in 1994 is a five-day outback adventure that includes visits to Ayers Rock and Alice Springs on a journey via plane, helicopter, boat and motorcoach. It is priced at US\$2,710 per person, double. Excursions to the famed Great Barrier Reef also are offered.

The "World Cruise," which reaches six continents during 100 days, starts in New York on Jan. 3, but a number of seg-ments are being offered. North American passengers can also pick it up in Fort Lauderdale on Jan. 5 or Los Angeles on Jan. 16, or at one of the ship's many other port stops. Fares for the full 100-day voyage start at US\$23,040, or US\$20,885 for the 87-day from Los Angeles. First-class air fare from a range of gateways is included.

Segments offered with the Pacific portion include New York-Auckland, Jan. 3-31, from US\$8,620; New York-Sydney, Jan. 3-Feb. 7, US\$10,000; New York-Hong Kong, Jan. 3-March 1, US\$18,495; Los Angeles-Auckland, Jan. 16-31, US\$5,910; Los Angeles-Singapore, Jan. 16-March 7, US\$16,620; Los Angeles-Hong

Kong, Jan. 16-March 1, US\$14,450; Los Angeles-Sydney, Jan. 16-Feb. 7, US\$7,990; Sydney-Hong Kong, Feb. 7-March 1, US\$8,680; Sydney-Singapore, Feb. 8-March 7, US\$10,555; Sydney-Yokohama, Feb. 7-21, US\$6,275; and Yokohama-Singapore, Feb. 21-March 7, US\$5,965.

The QE2 departs Pacific/Asi-an waters with segments includ-ing Hong Kong-Mombasa, March 1-18, US\$7,200; Hong Kong-Madras, March 1-11, US\$4,915; Singapore-Mombasa, March 7-18, US\$5,090; Singapore-Cape Town, March 7-24, US\$7,110; Madras-Cape Town, March 11-24, US\$5,935; Mombasa-Southampton, March 18-April 8, US\$8,065; and Cape Town-New York, March 24-April 13, US\$7,860.

Other highlights among shore excursions include a day at Disneyland, the Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor, the arts and crafts of Bali, shoot-ing the rapids in a canoe in the Philippines, three-day motorcoach tour of Japan, five-day China tour, Indian art and culture in Delhi and Zulu history and tradition in South Africa.

Cunard is represented in Canada by Toronto-based En-core Cruises. (JD)

U.S.
PRESS RELEASES / INTERVIEWS

DOWN UNDER TIME

Americans usually travel to Australia during our winter—their summer—which is probably the worst time to go. Cyclones batter the Great Barrier Reef, there are drenching rains in the north, and it's blisteringly hot in the Outback. Australia's spring, by contrast, is a time of pleasant weather, affordable prices, and special events, be they cultural, sports-related, or simply zany (the Henley-on-Todd Regatta, the world's only waterless boat race, in which competitors must *carry* their boats). Here's how to see it all:

- Qantas Vacations offers round-trip fare from Los Angeles to Sydney, Melbourne, or Brisbane, plus six nights at a hotel and a rental car for four days at \$1,199. For \$1,229 you can fly round-trip from Los Angeles to Cairns, spend three nights at this anglers' paradise, and then three nights on Dunk Island on the Great Barrier Reef. Call 800/641-8772.

- AusTravel offers two options: Those who like to choose their own accommodations can fly for \$999 to Sydney, the Great Barrier Reef, and Alice Springs (the Outback). Or fly round-trip from Los Angeles to Sydney and stay four nights at the Cambridge hotel and two nights in Hunter Valley, where high-quality wines are produced; you also get a three-day car rental. Call 800/633-3404.

SO TAHOE

Back in the United States, Lake Tahoe offers still-warm waters and many sports options. The Tahoe North Visitors & Convention Bureau's fall package features hundreds of properties, including the Resort at Squaw Creek and the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Resort & Casino. For \$78 to \$150 per person, guests receive two nights' lodging, two meals, and either horseback riding, kayaking, boating, or biking. Call 800/824-6348. ■

CORPORATE MEETINGS & INCENTIVES

NEW YORK, NY
MONTHLY 48.000

SEPTEMBER 1993

-1812

BURRELLE'S

DP

Bill Baker has been named regional director, the Americas for the Australian Tourist Commission (ATC). He is



Bill Baker

based in Los Angeles and was the ATC's area manager, Central and Southern Europe.

■ The Netherlands Board of Tourism in New York and the Netherlands Convention Bureau in Amsterdam have appointed **Ingrid Kuijpers** as corporate meeting manager. Kuijpers is based in New York. ■

—Compiled by Michele Jacob

TRAVEL WORLD NEWS

NORWALK, CT
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SEPTEMBER 1993

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AUSTRALIAN TOURIST COMMISSION

Jon Hutchinson, *managing director* of the Australian Tourist Commission, has announced the appointment of **Bill Baker** as *regional director, the Americas*, based in Los Angeles. He replaces **Carole Hancock**, who was transferred to Sydney as *general manager, operations* for the ATC.

In his new position, Mr. Baker has responsibility for management and operations of all ATC activities in the U.S., Canada and Latin America, and will oversee the ATC's consumer marketing program, trade development campaign, and organizational restructure.

Most recently, Mr. Baker served as the ATC's area manager, Central and Southern Europe, based in Frankfurt, Germany. He had earlier served as area manager in Los Angeles, from 1984 to 1990.

For more information, contact: AUSTRALIAN TOURIST COMMISSION, 1150 Marina Village Pkwy., Ste. 104, Alameda, CA 94501; 510/865-5126 or 5100; FAX 510/865-5165. □

TOUR & TRAVEL NEWS

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Low Aussie Prices Lure Tourists

NEW YORK — Low-priced packages are attracting attention for Australian tourism, but tour operators say most American consumers are buying up from the price leaders.

The packages are serving to change travelers' perception of Australia as a pricey place to visit, according to Ellen McNulty, president of New York-based Lynott Tours.

"People see [Australia] as an expensive destination because it is so far away and because of the amount of time you have to spend to see it," she said. "They tend to upgrade their packages, but now they are not so shocked at the initial price."

Price-oriented promotions began in March when a delegation from New South Wales visited the United States to promote the "Sydney Gold Rush" package, including roundtrip air and six nights' accommodations for less than \$1,000.

At the same time as the television show "Good Morning America" broadcasted from Australia in May, the Australian Tourist Commission, Qantas Airways and several wholesalers ran TV and print ads promoting competitively priced packages.

"The discount packages being advertised are making the phones

ring," said Greg Wren, consumer marketing manager for the ATC. "Then, wholesalers and travel agents are selling up."

The ATC and several major wholesalers have launched a series of ads promoting packages to Australia for less than \$1,000. The ads are being placed in six trade publications and will run through Sept. 30.



**THE DISCOUNT
PACKAGES BEING
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THEN, WHOLE-
SALEERS AND
TRAVEL AGENTS
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— GREG WREN,
ATC**

"The last few months, we've seen a trend away from the cheap packages, especially in New York and San Francisco," said Nicola Douglas, president of New York-based Austravel.

Douglas said consumers are again interested in the Australian Outback, including four-wheel-drive tours of Kakadu and Umuorruk in the Northern Terri-

tory. These tours tend to be more time-consuming and costly.

"[The price leaders] let the public know that Australia is becoming cheaper," said Ian Swain, president of Ardmore, Pa.-based Swain Australia Tours. "But still, the North American traveling public is such a mature one that they know if they want to go to out-of-the-way places, there will be a surcharge for that."

U.S. DOLLAR'S STRENGTH

Swain said that the fall of the Australian dollar against the U.S. dollar is enabling Americans to upgrade and still enjoy tours that are competitively priced when compared to similar products in Europe and the Caribbean.

"We find the key words are value for money," said Gerlinda Parker, a spokesperson for ATS Pan Pacific of Burbank, Calif. "People study the offers available and buy value. They don't have to be cheap, they have to be a good buy."

ATS has been offering a promotional fare of \$1,993 for an 18-day tour of Australia, Parker said. "We found that 80 percent of those booking it are taking the optional three-day extension, and a \$200 surcharge for the shoulder season hasn't affected sales at all."

— MARK ROBERTI

TRAVEL WEEKLY

NEW YORK, NY
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Tourist Officials Down Under Target U.S. Market

6675
BY LAURA DEL ROSSO

SYDNEY, Australia — The Australian Tourist Commission (ATC) will continue to try to convert Americans' interest in Australia into travel, according to officials.

U.S. arrivals have already risen 5.9% from January through June, compared with 1992.

The ATC, which spends \$15.6 million a year on marketing in the U.S., is targeting 330,000 arrivals this year, which would represent a 10% increase over 1992.

There are several factors working in Australia's favor this year, said Carole Hancock, the ATC's general manager of operations and former director for the Americas.

The weakening of the Australian dollar compared with the U.S. dollar and the drop in air fares from the U.S. to Australia, for example, are making travel to Australia less expensive than ever, she said.

"It's now possible for Americans to come to Australia on a 10-day package for under \$1,500," Hancock said.

"With Americans going to London and Hong Kong for long weekends, and with these prices, we don't see why we cannot attract that market."

Another factor is the continuing interest generated by ABC's "Good Morning America," which broadcast from Australia for six days in May.

The ATC's office in Los Angeles reported 17,000 responses to the toll-free telephone number advertised during the

morning program.

In addition, "ABC received 15,000 requests for the video from the program, and Qantas said its call volume was up by 10% over normal levels" in the week following the show, said Hancock.

The fourth factor is the ATC's year-old Aussie Specialist educational program, a four-hour course that teaches agents how to sell Australia.

Hancock said the Aussie Specialist program is vital because, according to ATC's research, travel agents are, for the most part, poorly informed about Australia and many still perceive it as an expensive destination.

She said that about 700 retailers have completed the course, and that these agents have seen a substantial increase in the average booking to Australia, up from \$3,000 in 1992 to \$5,000 this year, because of their greater knowledge of the destination and

what it has to offer.

The final reason for optimism is the success of the ATC's advertising campaign, "Feel the Wonder," which began in 1992.

The campaign, which will continue to be seen on national cable television and in consumer magazines, has generated nearly 300,000 direct-mail



Carole Hancock

responses.

Meanwhile, the ATC has appointed Bill Baker regional director for the Americas.

Baker, who is a familiar figure to travel agents and wholesalers specializing in Australia and who has been with the ATC for 23 years, played a leading role in the U.S. marketing programs from 1984 through 1990, when Paul Hogan's "Shrimp on the Barbie" campaign stirred interest.

He had been the ATC's area manager for central and southern Europe.

Baker said he "doesn't expect any radical change" in the next year, citing the success of the Aussie Specialist program and others like it, which were put in place during Hancock's tenure as director for the Americas.

However, he said that he expected the ATC to put more emphasis on developing the meetings and incentive and special-interest markets from the U.S. and to "go beyond consumer marketing" to tap into those more specialized fields.

SEP 19 1993

BURRELLES

Visiting indigenous cultures: Tread softly in the global village

By Laura Bly

Orange County Register

At a recent international conference on the promises and pitfalls of indigenous tourism, Australian Boris Burchett told the story of an Alice Springs tour group that had signed up for an Aboriginal performance after reading a brochure that touted the "haunting strains of the didgeridoo."

The trouble was, the long, hollow musical instrument is carved from trees that don't grow near Alice Springs. It isn't considered part of the local Aboriginal culture, and therefore wasn't included in the program.

"So, right in the middle of the dance, two busloads of tourists got up and walked out," recalled the director of cultural affairs for the Northern Territory Tourist Commission in Darwin.

"They came to hear a didgeridoo. And when they didn't, they said it (the performance) was a sham."

When the United Nations tagged 1993 as the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, it focused new attention on the economic and cultural plight of more than 300 million indigenous and tribal people living in 70 countries.

At the same time, the U.N. declaration has spotlighted the often-troubled encounters between First World tourists and Third World native cultures.

"By and large, tourism has been devastating to indigenous people," says Robert Leavitt, education director for Cultural Survival, a Cambridge, Mass.-based human rights organization that focuses on native culture.

"More and more people are looking for what they think is an 'authentic' cultural experience, but what we're seeing are facades put up to manufacture that authenticity," Mr. Leavitt adds. "It has been going on for decades in Hawaii and the Caribbean, and now it's global as well."

Getting past those facades is a difficult, sometimes treacherous passage both for native cultures and the tourists who come to admire and learn from them.

Some advice

Here are some suggestions for smoothing the journey:

■ Don't let your own curiosity become invasive — Each November, thousands of tourists head for the small volcanic island of Janitzio, near the colonial Mexican town of Patzcuaro. There Purepecha Indians celebrate the Day of the Dead with a poignant, all-night vigil that combines Catholicism with the pre-Hispanic beliefs of their ancestors. And there, those same tourists have turned vigil into carnival — trampling on graves, swigging beer and sticking camcorders into worshippers' faces.

Not every breach of cultural privacy is as blatant as that at Janitzio. Sometimes, it's as seemingly innocent as asking questions about long-held, carefully guarded beliefs —

and expecting answers that might better come from pre-trip research.

"Good tourism must create and protect pride and privacy," says Robertson Collins, a Singapore-based consultant with the Pacific Asia Travel Association.

■ Respect restrictions on photography and other visitor access. Many native cultures request visitors not to take photographs or make sketches of sacred sites or celebrations, a request that, in some cases, may be backed up with confiscation of the offending camera.

Even if you're not taking photos, be considerate of a site's spiritual or historical significance by tailoring your own behavior to that of your hosts.

In Australia's Northern Territory, for example, participants on some Aboriginal tours are separated into men's and women's groups because the knowledge presented is sex-specific. On other Aboriginal programs, visitors are taken to areas of special significance, but they are requested not to photograph or even talk about what they've seen.

■ Find out who benefits from, and decides the nature of, your visit — Among the questions the San Anselmo, Calif.-based Center for Responsible Tourism recommends asking potential tour operators:

What percentage of the trip cost stays in the community you visit?

Does the tour's pacing allow time to create or accept opportunities to interact with local people?

Is there a pre-trip orientation program?

Most important, how much input and control does the local culture have over the conditions of your visit?

■ Don't impose your own standards of "authenticity" — "Escaping to a civilization that has never seen raisins dance on TV or a Liz Claiborne label fascinates me," humorist Erma Bombeck once wrote. "If I wanted to drink the water, speak English and eat Italian, I'd stay home."

Honorable sentiments, to be sure. But in the global village of MTV, CNN and Terminator videos, it's hard to imagine many places whose residents haven't seen dancing raisins — or, thanks to visiting tourists, a pair of designer jeans.

As a result, you shouldn't expect your hosts to look as though they stepped out of the pages of a tattered *National Geographic* and if they do, recognize what the exchange is meant to achieve.

Mr. Collins, of the Pacific Asia Travel Association, cites the Trans-Niugini Tour in Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea, as an example of a tour that works both ways.

"There is an awareness on both sides that they are putting on a show," he says. "But, as it should be, there is a limit on our welcome; they show what they want to show."

There may be blue jeans in the back of the house, but when they (villagers) are elaborately dressed, they are wearing the clothes they still wear for ceremonial events," he adds. "The money they all earn



Special to The News: Laura Bly

Tour leader Bill Harney stands in front of an Aboriginal rock painting in Australia's Northern Territory.

goes for a new outboard engine for their market canoe."

■ Travel in a low-key manner — By their very nature — small groups, off-the-beaten-track locations — many tours that concentrate on indigenous cultures tend to

be expensive. All the more reason for those often wealthy tourists to journey as unobtrusively and unobtrusively as possible, says director Virginia Hadsell of the Center for Responsible Tourism.

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KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

► TOURS

Interest in native cultures is booming — and a growing number of mainstream travel companies and tourist offices are capitalizing on the trend.

■ The University Research Expeditions Program has led trips to Capirone, a remote Ecuadorian village, in the past and may repeat them next year. (510) 642-6586.

■ In Alaska, representatives of the state's four largest native cultures — Eskimo, Aleut, Athabascan Indian and Tlingit — have formed an Alaska Native Tourism Council to promote tours. Alaska Airlines Vacations offers a one-day, \$315 per person trip from Anchorage to the Eskimo village of Kotzebue. (800) 468-2248.

■ Australia's Northern Territory provides a *Come Share Our Culture* brochure emphasizing Aborig-

inal programs and tours. (800) 4-OUTBAC.

■ Overseas Adventure Travel this summer offered 11 new Canadian itineraries focusing on Inuit culture. Upcoming offerings: (800) 221-0814.

■ In the American Southwest, major tour companies such as Globus-Gateway, Maupintour and Special Expeditions have launched new programs focusing on Native Americans. Contact a travel agent

► SOURCES

A sampling of other sources that focus on indigenous cultures:

■ Center for Responsible Tourism: send a SASE to Box 827, San Anselmo, Calif. 94979.

■ Cultural Survival, 215 First St., Cambridge, Mass. 02142.

■ *Handle With Care: A Guide to Responsible Travel in Developing Countries* (Scott Graham; Noble Press: \$8.95).

Dallas Morning
News
Sept. 19, 1993

TIMES HERALD

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Groups Cash in on Interest in Indigenous Cultures

Getting to Capirona isn't easy.

Accessible only by foot, it requires a two- to four-hour slog through dense jungle -- while wearing a backpack and knee-high rubber boots. (If the water is high enough, the return trip is via canoe.)

But the handful of hardy travelers who make the journey to this remote Ecuadorian village come away with more than sore feet and local knowledge about the flora and fauna of the Amazon rain forest.

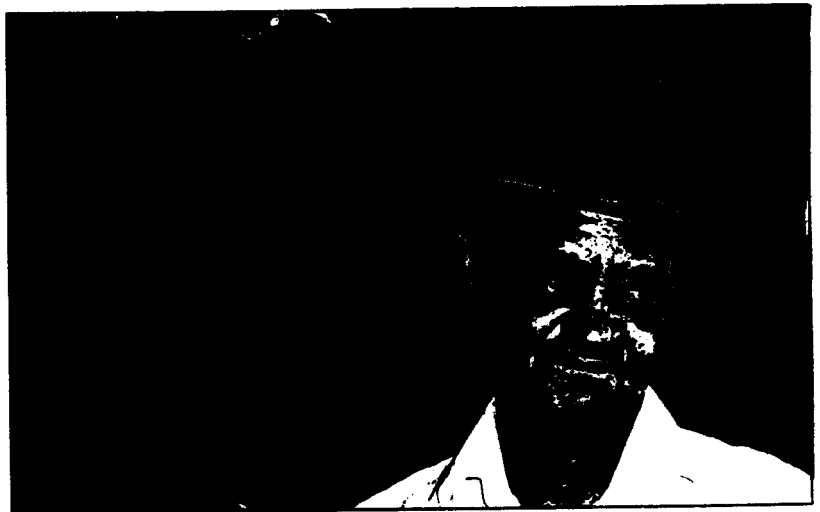
They're part of a new experiment in cultural exchange and survival.

Capirona, a village of 24 Quichua Indian families in Ecuador's Napo province, has created one of the world's few indigenously owned and operated tourism programs. Conceived three years ago as an alternative to oil, lumber and mining interests that have exploited the region, the low-key project has attracted the attention of other Amazonian tribes -- and prompted cautious optimism among its Quichua hosts.

(The Berkeley-based University Research Expeditions Program has led trips to Capirona in the past and may repeat them next year; for more information, call (510) 642-6586.)

Though not every traveler has the ability or inclination to visit Capirona, interest in native cultures is booming -- and a growing number of mainstream travel companies and tourist offices are capitalizing on the trend.

In Alaska, representatives of the state's four largest native cultures -- Eskimo, Aleut, Athabascan Indian and Tlingit -- formed an Alaska Native Tourism Council late last year to promote everything from three- or four-hour tours designed for cruise pas-



Tour leader Bill Harney in front of aboriginal rock painting in Australia's northern territory. PHOTO CREDIT: Laura Bly Photo

sengers to overnight stays in remote villages.

Alaska Airlines Vacations offers a one-day, \$315 per person trip from Anchorage to the Eskimo village of Kotzebue, about 30 miles north of the Arctic Circle. In Kotzebue, visits include a camp where village elders teach youths traditional crafts and survival skills. (Information: (800) 468-2248.)

Australia's Northern Territory provides a "Come Share Our Culture" brochure emphasizing Aboriginal programs and tours. Several focus on the region's prolific rock paintings, which range from recent depictions of contact with outside societies to designs that experts estimate could be anywhere from 20,000 to 65,000 years old. (Information: (800) 4-OUTBAC.)

Overseas Adventure Travel, a Cambridge, Mass.-based adventure-tour operator, this summer offers 11 new Canadian itineraries that focus on Inuit culture

in a region that by the turn of the century will become part of a new Inuit-controlled territory called Nunavut. (Information: (800) 221-0814.)

And in the American Southwest, major tour companies such as Globus-Gateway ((800) 851-0728), Maupintour ((800) 255-4266) and Special Expeditions ((800) 762-0003) have launched new programs focusing on American Indians.

Here's a sampling of other sources that focus on indigenous cultures and tourism:

Center for Responsible Tourism: send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Box 827, San Anselmo, Calif. 94979; telephone number is (415) 258-6594. This non-profit organization is dedicated to improving

awareness about Third World tourism and the importance of responsible interaction with other cultures. The group publishes a "Code of Ethics for Responsible Travelers" and a quarterly newsletter.

Cultural Survival, 215 First St., Cambridge, Mass. 02142; telephone number: (617) 621-3818. This human-rights organization, which specializes in native cultures, produces a quarterly magazine.

"Handle With Care: A Guide to Responsible Travel in Developing Countries" (Noble Press: \$8.95, by Scott Graham). Addresses sticky issues such as begging, haggling at markets and the ethics of traveling to countries with repressive governments.



Tribune photo by David Klobucar

Manual Pamkal (from left) of Manyallak Tours, Brian Rooke of Umorruk Safaris, Harold Wilson of Aussie Safaris and Bill Harney of Jankangyina Tours are in the U.S. to promote Aborigine-run tourism in Australia.

In Australia, true Aborigine tours

By Steven Morris

TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

In Australia's 800,000-square-mile Northern Territory, where only 175,000 people live, tourism has boomed in the last 20 years. The territory, much of which has been returned to Aboriginal ownership, is the site of some of the country's most dramatic scenery.

"But Aborigines were often the objects of the tourism rather than active participants," said Bill Baker, regional director, the Americas, for the Australian Tourist Commission.

Over the last decade, Aboriginal operators have slowly entered the tourism market. But they were excluded or confined to lower-level jobs.

Now, however, Australian Aborigines are starting to take a bigger piece of the \$50 million Aboriginal tourism industry. A group of them

"We set up the [tour] business three years ago as a means of self-determination. Aboriginal people want to be independent."

Harold Wilson

was in Chicago Friday to make that point to the U.S. travel industry.

Aborigines, said Baker, "face many problems, not the least of which is a history of negative Aboriginal stereotyping by the broader Australian and international communities."

Ownership of Northern Territory land has helped encourage Aborigines

to move into the tour market. Of the 50 so-called Aboriginal tours operated in the Northern Territory, 10 are run by Aborigines, according to the commission. An estimated 20 tourist-related companies are now operated by Aborigines.

"In the past, a lot of safaris have been owned by non-Aborigines but were calling themselves Aboriginal tours," said Brian Rooke, who, with his wife, Phyllis Wilson, owns and operates Umorruk Safaris, based in Darwin. For \$220 a day plus air fare, Rooke takes tourists to the bush country of western Arnhem Land, a one-hour flight by light aircraft from Darwin, home of the Gummukbun Aboriginal clan.

Rooke is among 17 representatives of Aboriginal tour companies who are traveling in the U.S. hoping to lure

SEE ABORIGINE, FOLLOWING PAGE

Aborigine

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

business. Rooke, 42, is descended from Aborigines in Tasmania, and Wilson is a Gummukbun. Until four years ago Rooke operated a gardening business in Darwin.

"I loved going into the bush," he said, "and I was looking for a way to earn a living there."

His business is "the only Aboriginal-owned safari in Arnhem Land," he said. "We employ members of the community as guides, and the community gets a fee for the rights to operate tours there."

Harold Wilson, 25, town clerk of Peppimenarti, a community of 220 people, became the operator of his clan's tour business a year ago.

Peppimenarti was established in 1973 as a "cattle station," an Australian term for a ranch. "Now it's a community," said Wilson. "We set up the [tour] business three years ago as a means of self-determination. Aboriginal people want to be independent."

The tours have been "pretty busy" the last year, Wilson said, but "it's going to have to take a while for it to really get going. It's like any new small business."

One impetus for the sprouting

of Aboriginal tour business came from the cattle industry.

Beef importers in the U.S. and other countries charged that sor. buffalo in Australia were infected with bovine tuberculosis or brucellosis, which could spread cattle.

"In our area, a source of income for the clan was from working in the program for testing cattle in the 1980s. When that finished, they needed to look around for a alternative," Rooke said.

Some clans considered mining and tourism.

"Fortunately for everybody, they chose tourism," said Rooke. "They wouldn't have as much impact on the culture, the environment, particularly if the tourism was on a small scale."

Bill Harney, 62, who operates a business building fences for government installations and cattle ranches, started Jankangyina Tours in 1988, taking visitors on camping trips in what's called the Land of the Lightning Brothers, whose clashes, according to legend, established the seasonal cycles of storms and droughts.

Harney, who was raised in a rock shelter and never attended a school, says the business lets him "share my culture with white people."

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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ATC's Baker Stresses Aussie Specialist Program

LOS ANGELES — The new regional director of the Australian Tourist Commission's Americas office has an unusual task: to follow in his own footsteps.

For Bill Baker, who replaced Carole Hancock in July after a three-year stint in Europe, the new appointment is a return to his old stomping ground, where he was area manager from 1984 to 1990. During his previous tenure here, he played a leading role in developing tourism to Australia from the U.S., as a member of the team that developed the famous Paul Hogan TV ads offering to put "another shrimp on the barbie."

U.S. arrivals rose dramatically then, from about 160,400 in 1984 to a peak of 322,300 in 1988, according to ATC figures. However, they dropped sharply in 1989, to 260,700, paralleling the falling U.S. economy, and have remained relatively stable through 1992.

Boost Tourism

In his new position, Baker will oversee and refine several programs devised under Hancock to boost tourism to Australia. In particular, he has set goals for the Aussie Specialist Program, which allows agents to become certified Aussie specialists after completing a self-study program and quiz on the destination and refers consumers to those specialists.

Already, Baker said, the program has shown measurable results: The ATC has certified 1,400 agents since the program was launched one year ago, and Baker is confident that the number of specialists will reach 2,000 by year-end. The Aussie Help Line (800-433-2877), which assists agents in planning itineraries, pro-

vides information on special offers and answers questions, receives an average of 750 calls per week. Visitor numbers from the U.S. increased 2% in the first half of 1993, compared with the same period last year.

Those accomplishments are only the beginning, however. "The program is not an achievement, but the start of a process," Baker said.

The ATC plans to develop a set of performance and conduct cri-

teria, geared toward ensuring that specialists are actively selling Australia, he told *TA-West*.

"Specialists have to demonstrate clearly an attempt to sell Australia," he said. In addition, the ATC distributes "privileged information" to specialists and wants to protect against its misuse. For example, when a specialist receives

consumer leads from the ATC, that agent is expected to try and convert the leads into sales, and not mail

them information on other destinations, he explained.

The ATC also will examine where, geographically, most of the business is coming from, in order to direct its promotional coverage, he added.

Later this year, the ATC will establish an advisory board consisting of specialists and suppliers. The board will continue to study the program and make refinements aimed at greater productivity, Baker said. The board also will be a "communication resource" between agents and other industry segments, he added.

Continued on page 66

'Specialists have to demonstrate clearly an attempt to sell Australia.'

ATC Develops New Marketing Cooperative

Continued from page 65

Another program, a cooperative marketing plan between the ATC, Australia's states and territories and private enterprise, has been under development for several months and is close to implementation. The ATC expects to unveil Partnership Australia within the next month, Baker said.

Although details of the program are not yet available, it basically will be a "broad agreement for participation in [addressing] the need for single-source information servicing," Baker said. Although Partnership Australia will be a worldwide program, it particularly will benefit the states and territories in the U.S. Four of them have closed their offices here and either contracted with private companies to market them or ceased U.S. operations altogether (*TA-West*, Aug. 30).

The Aussie Specialist and Partnership Australia programs are part of an organizational restructuring of the ATC, aimed at developing a market-driven focus and separating its consumer and trade roles.

— Mimi Kmet



Bill Baker

Monday, September 27, 1993 Travel

TRAVELAGE WEST

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Monday, September 27, 1993 TravelAge West

Travel News

6675 Australia
By Scott Bauer *icw Travel*

P. 3

Beartooth Bonanza

The movie *City Slickers* can become a reality on the Lazy E L Ranch in the Northern Rockies. The ranch is located at the base of the Beartooths, Montana's largest mountain range, and offers anything but a lazy time. If you are searching for the ultimate Western experience, the Lazy E L has it, from rafting to trail rides to fishing. Typical prices for the trip are \$1,500 per adult. Contact Off the Beaten Path, 109 E. Main St., Bozeman, MT 59715; 800-445-2995

Par in the Pacific

If you think you've played on every imaginable golf course in the Chicago area, then it's time to take your game to Hawaii. The Bay Club Villas at Waikoloa on the Island of Hawaii is preparing a special golf program for everyone from the most humble beginner to the experienced pro. Rates begin at \$421 per person for a five-night vacation at the Bay Club, which is surrounded by 36 greens and fairways overlooking the Pacific Ocean and nestled between the Mauna Loa and Kohala mountains. In addition to golfing on courses designed by the likes of Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus, visitors can go deep-sea fishing, scuba diving, and snorkeling. 800-426-6367.

A Ghost of a Chance

You may want to count on some extra guests staying with you at some of Forte's Heritage Hotels in the British Isles. But don't count on Lady Di: the guests may have been dead for years. It seems that some of England's most popular inns, some dating back to the 1480s, are supposedly haunted. For a free guide to the haunted hotels, send a SASE to: Forte Hotels, 12 East 41st St., New York, NY 10017. ✓

Up, Up, and Away

✓ Traveling through Europe doesn't have to be restricted to the accepted means of transportation any more. Thanks to Bombard Ballooning Adventures, centuries of European architectural wonders can be seen from the air in a hot air balloon. Landings are planned so you can explore the most popular sights along the way. Trips can even be coordinated for those confined to a wheelchair. 800-862-8537

Take a Peak

You might want to consider packing your winter clothes and heading off to New Zealand. In Queenstown, your dreams can become reality with special Mount Cook Line 10-day ski holidays. Tours include everything from unlimited ski passes to a welcome ski party upon arrival. Coronet Peak in Queenstown has been ranked among the 25 best ski resorts in the world. 800-345-3504.

A River Runs Through It

This fall when The Oriental Spa Thai Health and Beauty Centre opens its doors, Bangkok will be treated to a new dimension in the art of rejuvenation: whirlpools, sauna, steamrooms, massage bath tubs, power showers, treatment beds for herbal wraps, and massage lounges. Special packages from half and full-day spa programs to three and seven-day total retreats can be arranged. The Oriental Hotel on the opposite bank of the Chao Phraya River offers a beautiful place to rest after a day at the spa. 212-308-8880.

Yes, Virginia

✓ In Virginia Beach, Virginia, summer fun doesn't end when September rolls around. There is nightly boardwalk entertainment, historic trolley tours, fireworks shows, and much more. For those who just want to relax there are over 38 miles of ocean and bay beaches. 800-VA BEACH.

A Lot to Si

The beauty of the Spanish countryside can be experienced in many ways, thanks to more than 40 tour packages featuring a variety of destinations. From the Olympic Village in Barcelona to a barber shop in Seville, Spain has mucho to offer. Art lovers can sample works by such famous artists as Pablo Picasso and Joan Miro in their respective museums. Special golf or the art tours can be arranged. Call 800-SPAIN-99. ✓

From Russia With Love

✓ Formerly reserved for members of the Communist Party, the Bolshoi Express is now carrying western travelers across Russia in style. The Express hearkens back to the Golden Age of Russia's rail lines with sixteen carriages including sleeping cars fitted with mahogany and brass, four shower rooms per car, a bar car, and dining cars which reflect Georgian, Baltic and Ukranian styles. Trips can be planned to explore Moscow and St. Petersburg, known as the "City of Tsars." The Express stops so you can get out and experience St. Basil's Cathedral, Red Square, and the overpowering Kremlin. 800-999-1758.

Beer Can Regatta Beckons

Australia is not just a desert land occupied by Crocodile Dundee clones; it is vast, diverse country inhabited by a culture more than 60,000 years old. You can see the country by canoe, jeep, motorhome, helicopter, high-wing aircraft, horse, or even camel. If a cruise seems more relaxing than hiking through the Outback, then The Murray River Queen is ideal. Cruises vary from all-day excursions to the Great Barrier Reef, to romantic dinner cruises through the Hawkesbury River, just an hour north of Sydney. Australia is host to many festivals during the year, from the Beer Can Regatta to the International Music Festival. Call the Australian Tourist Commission at 800-727-5165.

Ski Free!

As unbelievable as it may sound, you can actually ski for free during the most popular ski month of the year! At Mt. Crested Butte, Colorado, from November 19 to December 18, you can test the 1,160 acres of skiing for free. Crested Butte offers everything from a Victorian town that still retains its Western feel to fine dining to beautiful ski slopes. Ski clinics are available for beginners, women's groups, advanced, physically challenged, children's, and guided tours; there are also mountain bike trails available. 800-544-8448.

Warm Up to Iceland

If your image of Iceland is of a barren, frozen wasteland inhabited only by Vikings and Eskimos, it's time to look again. Iceland is a vibrant, multi-faceted country with volcanoes, hot springs, glaciers, fjords, and even Viking ruins. Hike the mountains or watch birds; Greenland is only a short flight away. Call 1-800-854-4080. ✓

CHICAGO LIFE SEPT-OCT 1993
(cont. next page)

Don't Mine If I Do

Imagine viewing fantastic fall scenery from 11,000 feet up. It's possible in Colorado, where you can hop in a jeep and explore the old mining towns, or ride a train through the forest for a more relaxing time. If a more conventional tour is for you, then traveling down the hundreds of miles of Colorado highways with the Sangre De Cristo Mountains as a backdrop is more appropriate. So if you are a dedicated leaf watcher, give Colorado a try. Call 303-592-5510.

Ecotourists All Wet

Costa Rica is a country where five percent of all plants and animals known to exist are prevalent in twelve ecological zones ranging from tropics to rain forests, mountains to volcanoes, and white sand beaches to Atlantic wetlands. Using San Jose as a starting point, almost any of the beautiful coast line of Costa Rica can be reached either by charter plane or bus. Lodging is inexpensive, and twenty-seven percent of Costa Rica is made up of national parks and reserves, making it a naturalist's delight. However, the rest of the country is being eaten up by developers, so enjoy the riches while they're still around to be savored. Call your travel agent or Costa Rica Information and Tours at 800-327-4250.

All That Jazz

Get your fix of jazz and cajun cooking in historical New Orleans, where walking in the French Quarter and ferrying down the Mighty Mississippi will enthrall you. Let TravelTours International handle hotels and excursions, and just enjoy the creole flavor of this enchanting city. Contact your travel agent or Continental's Grand Destination at 800-634-5555.—*Ruby Bugarin*

End of the World

Yes, you can stay in a first-class hotel at the end of the world. The Termas de Puyuhuapi, which opened in January 1992 in Patagonia, is a 26-room chalet surrounded by lush forests. The only way to reach this inn, is on the Patagonia Express, which travels by the snowcapped Andean peaks. Call Patagonia Connection: 56-2-223-5567, fax 274-8111.—*R.B.*

Gold Rush

If you have always wanted to pan for gold, here's your chance. Just 75 miles from downtown Atlanta, Dahlonega (in the mountains of Georgia) is the site of America's first gold rush of 1828. The Gold Museum has exhibitions and shows on gold fever, as well as spots where you can pan for gold. You can get to Atlanta for \$99 each way from Midway on Private Jet, 800-949-9400.

HERALD-SUN

DURHAM, NC
SUNDAY 61,967

OCT 3 1993

Tread softly in the global village

Going native?

By LAURA BLY

Universal Press Syndicate

At a recent international conference on the promises and pitfalls of indigenous tourism, Australian Chris Burchett told the story of an Alice Springs tour group that had signed up for an Aboriginal performance after reading a brochure that touted the "haunting strains of the didgeridoo."

The trouble was, the long, hollow musical instrument is carved from trees that don't grow near Alice Springs. It isn't considered part of the local

Aboriginal culture, and therefore wasn't included in the program.

"So, right in the middle of the dance, two busloads of tourists got up and walked out," recalled Burchett, director of cultural affairs for the Northern Territory Tourist Commission in Darwin.

"They came to hear a didgeridoo. And when they didn't, they said [the performance] was a sham."

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cultural plight of more than 300 million people living in 70 countries.

At the same time, the U.N. declaration has spotlighted the often-troubled encounters between First World tourists and Third World native cultures.

"By and large, tourism has been devastating to indigenous people," says Robert Leavitt, education director for Cultural Survival, a Cambridge, Mass., human-rights organization that focuses on native culture.

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TREAD

FROM H1

More and more people are looking for what they think is an 'authentic' cultural experience, but what we're seeing are facades put up to manufacture that authenticity," Leavitt adds. "It's been going on for decades in Hawaii and the Caribbean, and, now, it's global as well."

Getting past those facades is a difficult, sometimes treacherous passage both for native cultures and the tourists who come to admire and learn from them. Here are some suggestions for smoothing the journey:

DON'T LET YOUR OWN CURIOSITY BECOME INVASIVE

Each November, thousands of tourists head for the small volcanic island of Janitzio, near the colonial Mexican town of Patzcuaro. There Purepecha Indians celebrate the Days of the Dead with a poignant, all-night vigil that combines Catholicism with the pre-Hispanic beliefs of their ancestors. And there, tourists have turned vigil into carnival — trampling on graves, swigging beer and sticking camcorders into worshipers' faces.

Not every breach of cultural privacy is as blatant as that at Janitzio. Sometimes, it's as seemingly innocent as asking questions about long-held, carefully guarded beliefs — and expecting answers that might better come from pre-trip research.

"Good tourism must create and protect pride and privacy," says Robertson Collins, a Singapore consultant with the Pacific Asia Travel Association.

RESPECT RESTRICTIONS

Many native cultures request visitors not to take photographs or make sketches of sacred sites or celebrations — a request that, in some cases, may be backed up with confiscation of the offending camera.

Even if you're not taking photos, be considerate of a site's spiritual or historical significance by tailoring your own behavior to that of your hosts.

In Australia's Northern Territory, for example, participants on some Aboriginal tours are separated into men's and women's groups because the knowledge presented is sex-specific. On other Aboriginal programs, visitors are taken to areas of special significance but are requested not to photograph or even talk about what they've seen.

FIND OUT WHO BENEFITS

Among the questions the San Anselmo, Calif., Center for Responsible Tourism recommends asking potential tour operators "What percentage of the trip cost stays in the community you visit?" Does the tour's pacing allow time to create or accept opportunities to interact with local people? Is there a pre-trip orientation program? Most important, how much input and control does the local culture have over the conditions of your visit?

DON'T IMPOSE STANDARDS OF 'AUTHENTICITY'

"Escaping to a civilization that has never seen raisins dance on TV or a Liz Claiborne label fascinates me," humorist Erma Bombeck once wrote.

"If I wanted to drink the water, speak English and eat Italian, I'd stay home."

Honorable sentiments, to be sure. But in the global village of MTV, CNN and "Terminator" videos, it's hard to imagine many places whose residents haven't seen dancing raisins — or, thanks to visiting tourists, a pair of designer jeans.

Collins, of the Pacific Asia Travel Association, cites the Trans-Niugini Tour in Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea, as an example of a tour that works both ways. "There is an awareness on both sides that they are putting on a show," Collins says. "But, as it should be, there is a limit on our welcome; they show what they want to show."

"There may be blue jeans in the back of the house, but when [the villagers] are elaborately dressed, they are wearing the clothes they still wear for ceremonial events," he adds. "Further, the money they all earn goes to buy a new outboard engine for their market-canoe."

KEEP IT LOW-KEY

By their very nature — small groups, off-the-beaten-track locations — many tours that concentrate on indigenous cultures tend to be expensive. All the more reason for those often wealthy tourists, says director Virginia Hadsell of the Center for Responsible Tourism, to journey as unobtrusively and undemandingly as possible.

(CONT') HERALD-SUN
OCT. 3, 1993

1993

BURRELLE'S

Good Third World tourism protects pride and privacy

By LAURA BLY
Universal Press Syndicate

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Primary Color LAURA BLY

Heritage: Tour leader Bill Harney pauses in front of aboriginal rock painting in Australia's Northern Territory.

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As a result, you shouldn't expect your hosts to look as though they stepped out of the pages of a tattered *National Geographic* — and if they do, recognize what the exchange is meant to achieve.

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Travel in a low-key manner. By their very nature — small groups, off-the-beaten-track locations — many tours that concentrate on indigenous cultures tend to be expensive. All the more reason for those often-wealthy tourists to journey as unobtrusively and undemandingly as possible, says director Virginia Iadsell of the Center for Responsible Tourism.

IF YOU GO: Indigenous

Getting to Capirana isn't easy. Accessible only by foot, it requires a two-day, 10-hour slog through jungle while wearing a backpack and knee-high rubber boots. (If the weather isn't too hot, the return trip is via canoe.) But the handful of hardy travelers who make the journey to this remote Ecuadorian village come away with more than good feet and local knowledge about the flora and fauna of the Amazon rain forest. They're part of a new approach to cultural exchange and survival.

Capirana, a village of 200 Quechua Indian families in Ecuador's Napo province, has created one of the world's few independently owned and operated tourism programs.

Conceived three years ago by a group of local people, the program is now run by a local committee.

The program is designed to provide a sustainable source of income for the local people while preserving their culture and the environment.

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For those who want to experience the region's traditional crafts and survival skills, the program provides a "Come and See" tour. This tour focuses on the region's traditional crafts and survival skills, which range from recent designs to ancient techniques. The tour is open to anyone who is interested in learning about the local culture and the environment.

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NAPLES DAILY NEWS

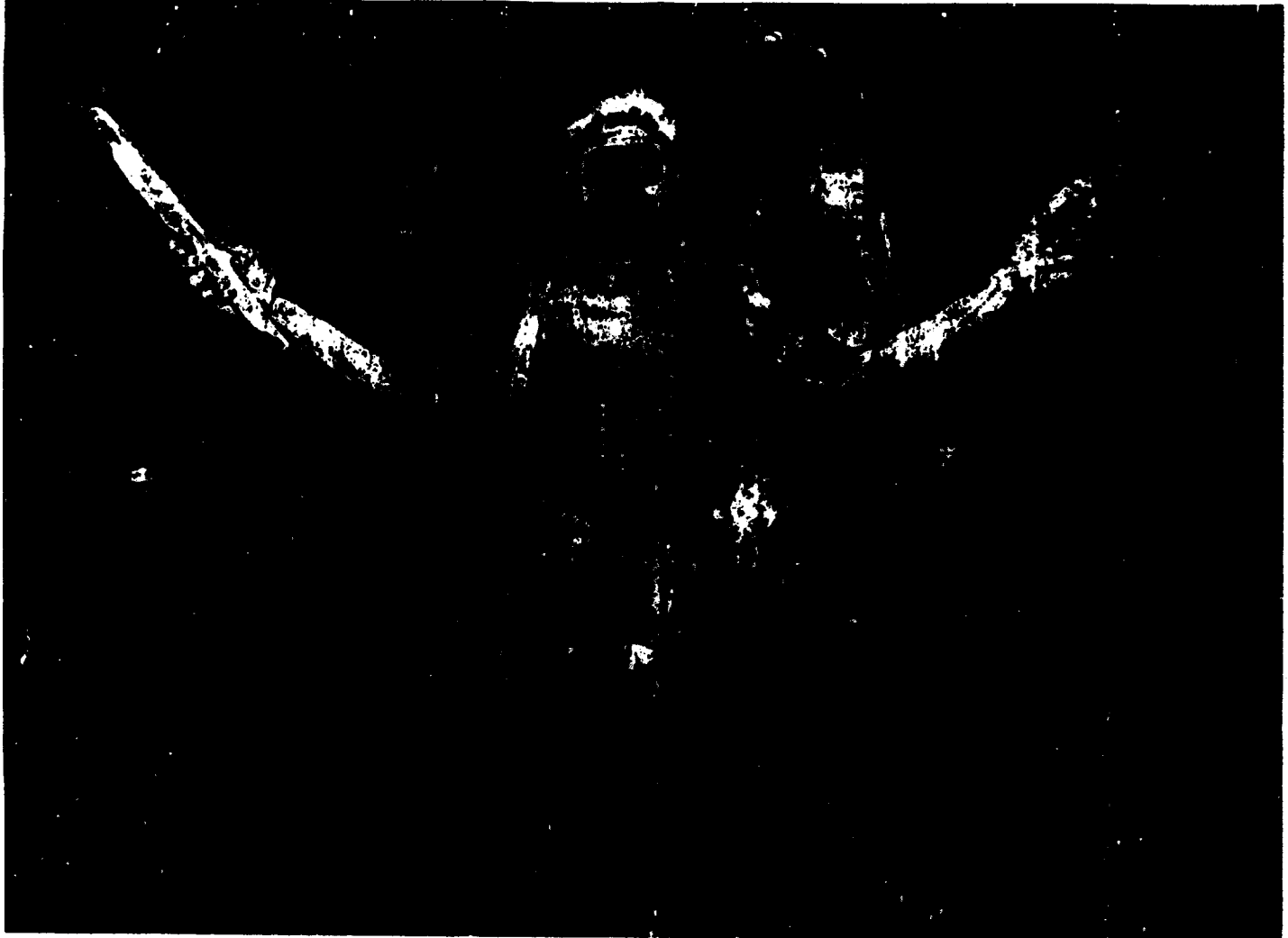
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Staff photo by Eric Strichen

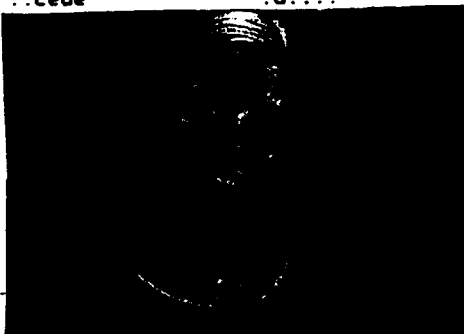
Down Under at the Ritz

An Australian aborigine dancer strikes a pose while strolling through the lobby of the Ritz-Carlton hotel Thursday night after performing for travel agents from Collier and Lee counties. The Australian Tourist Commission hosted the program to promote tourism to Australia and celebrate "The 1993 Year of the Indigenous Peoples." The United Nations had declared 1993 the International Year of the World's Indigenous peoples in tribute to the more than 300 million aborigine and tribal people living in 70 countries, including Native Americans.

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Aborigines see benefits in tourism

An industrious group of 17 people is traveling thousands of miles throughout the United States on a monthlong, marathon mission to carry the word to the travel industry:

Australia's aboriginal peoples — once often the focus of tourist business, but seldom its proprietor — have themselves recently developed numerous tours and programs designed to provide foreign visitors with high-interest, low-impact experiences.

In this way, they hope to help preserve their cultures and protect their environments, as well as reap financial gain and increased employment for their people. In short, they see their development of tourism as a social and economic boon.

On Tuesday, six members of the group visited Tampa. Three of them — Manual Pamkal, Harold Wilson and Bill Harney — are aborigines with tour operations; two of them — Bill Zammit and Neil Hermes — are nonaborigines with environmental tourism operations in aboriginal regions; and one of them — Linley Brim — is the box office manager with an aboriginal dance theater.

Some questions

Do these tourism operators find that their foreign visitors — many of whom are from the United States, Germany or Japan — are respectful of their local culture?

Yes, for the most part, the group says. "People don't cross the Pacific Ocean and go into the outback unless their interest is genuine," says Hermes, whose company, Uluru Experience, offers "expert guided experiences of Ayers Rock's natural and cultural heritage."

And what do the Aussies, whose tour has taken them from Los Angeles to Chicago, New York and points south, think of the United States?

Pamkal smiles and says, "Big cities."

While Australia is nearly as big as the United States, it has one-tenth our population and Harney says he was amazed, while visiting the Sears Tower in Chicago, to realize there were more people in that one building than in his hometown of 500.

The only misfortune that had befallen the group, they said, was minor: One of their three vans got stuck in a traffic jam in the Lincoln Tunnel. They just rolled up the windows and sat tight — perhaps a bit nervously.

Sponsored in part by the Australian Tourist Commission as well as Qantas Airways, the promotional tour also celebrates the United Nations designation of 1993 as the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, said to number more than 300 million — including American Indians — living in 70 countries.

For more information on visiting the Land Down Under, write the Australian Tourist Commission at 489 Fifth Ave., 31st Floor, New York, N.Y. 10017, or at 2121 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1200, Los Angeles, Calif. 90067. The toll-free number is (800) 333-0262; the New York office is

Some history

Aboriginal peoples are thought to have been in Australia for more than 60,000 years, according to the Australian Tourist Commission. When Europeans arrived, they found 126 tribal groups with 300 different languages. Now the aborigines number some 300,000 people in various tribal groups. For many of them, English is the common language. In many ways, their story is not unlike that of American Indians.

At any rate, vast regions of land have been returned to aborigines in recent years. Their challenge has been to develop tourism products that would bring them commercial success and yet preserve the integrity of their cultures.

"If we don't do this, some of our ways will be lost," says Harney, whose Jankanyina Tours operates out of the community of Katherine in the Northern Territory. A noted storyteller, Harney grew up in the traditional manner of the Wardaman people.

Like many aboriginal operations, his company is relatively small — he takes groups of 12 or fewer people into the natural bush land — and so may offer visitors a distinctive experience, sharing with them the mythology, culture and community of his people.

Some 20 tourist-related companies are owned by aborigines, according to the commission. Capitalizing on the increasing interest among world travelers in cultural and environmental tourism, their efforts are timely and have enjoyed a measure of success.

Aboriginal tourism and related activities, including art sales, generate approximately \$50 million annually, according to the commission, and some 45 percent of that is returned to local communities.

Groups cash in on indigenous interest

6675
Universal Press Syndicate

Getting to Capirona isn't easy. Accessible only by foot, it requires a two- to four-hour slog through dense jungle — while wearing a backpack and knee-high rubber boots. (If the water is high enough, the return trip is via canoe.) But the handful of hardy travelers who make the journey to this remote Ecuadorian village come away with more than sore feet and local knowledge about the flora and fauna of the Amazon rain forest.

They're part of a new experiment in cultural exchange and survival.

Capirona, a village of 24 Quichua Indian families in Ecuador's Napo province, has created one of the world's few indigenously owned and operated tourism programs. The low-key project has attracted the attention of other Amazonian tribes — and prompted cautious optimism among its Quichua hosts.

(The Berkeley, Calif.-based University Research Expeditions Program has led trips to Capirona in the past and may repeat them next year. For more information, call (510) 642-6586.)

Though not every traveler has the ability or inclination to visit Capirona, interest in native cultures is booming — and a growing number of mainstream travel companies and tourist offices are capitalizing on the trend.

In Alaska, representatives of the state's four largest native cultures — Eskimo, Aleut, Athabascan Indian and Tlingit — formed an Alaska Native Tourism Council late last year.

Alaska Airlines Vacations offers a one-day, \$315-per-person trip from Anchorage to the Eskimo village of Kotzebue, about 30 miles north of the Arctic Circle. In Kotzebue, visits include a camp where village elders teach youths traditional crafts and survival skills. (Information: (800) 468-2248.)

Australia's Northern Territory provides a "Come Share Our Culture" brochure emphasizing Aboriginal programs and tours. Several focus on the region's prolific rock paintings, which range from recent depictions of contact with outside societies to designs that experts estimate could be anywhere from 20,000 to 65,000 years old. (Information: (800) 4-OUT-BAC.)

Overseas Adventure Travel, a Cambridge, Mass.-based adventure-tour operator, offered 11 new Canadian itineraries that focused on Inuit culture in a region that by the turn of the century will become part of a new Inuit-controlled territory called Nunavut. (Information: (800) 221-0814.)

And in the American Southwest, major tour companies such as Globus-Gateway, (800) 851-0728; Maupintour (800) 255-4266; and Special Expeditions, (800) 762-0003 have launched new programs focusing on American Indians.

Here's a sampling of other sources that focus on indigenous cultures and tourism:

■ Center for Responsible Tourism; send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Box 827, San Anselmo, Calif. 94979; telephone number is (415) 258-6594. This non-profit organization is dedicated to improving awareness about Third World tourism. The group publishes a *Code of Ethics for Responsible Travelers* and a quarterly newsletter.

■ Cultural Survival, 215 First St., Cambridge, Mass. 02142; telephone number: (617) 621-3818. This human-rights organization, which specializes in native cultures, produces a quarterly magazine.

■ *Handle With Care: A Guide to Responsible Travel in Developing Countries* (Noble Press; \$8.95, by Scott Graham). Addresses issues such as begging, haggling at markets and the traveling to countries with repressive governments.

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Tread softly when visiting indigenous and tribal people

Universal Press Syndicate

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Attention focused on indigenous people

When the United Nations tagged 1993 as the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, it focused new attention on the economic and cultural plight of more than 300 million indigenous and tribal people living in 70 countries.

At the same time, the U.N. declaration has spotlighted the often-troubled encounters between First World tourists and Third World native cultures.

"By and large, tourism has been devastating to indigenous people," says Robert Leavitt, education director for Cultural Survival, a Cambridge, Mass.-based human rights organization that focuses on native culture.

"More and more people are looking for what they think is an 'authentic' cultural experience, but what we're seeing are facades put up to manufacture that authenticity," Leavitt adds. "It's been going on for decades in Hawaii and the Caribbean, and now it's global as well."

Getting past those facades is a difficult, sometimes treacherous passage both for native cultures and the tourists who come to learn from them. Here are some suggestions for smoothing the journey:

- Don't let your own curiosity become invasive. Each November thousands of tourists head for the small volcanic island of Janitzio, near the colonial Mexican town of Patzcuaro. There Purepecha Indians celebrate the Days of the Dead with a poignant, all-night vigil that combines Catholicism with the pre-Hispanic beliefs of their ancestors. And there, those same tourists have turned vigil into carnival —

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Where does the money go?

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TIMES LEADER

WILKES BARRE, PA
DAILY & SUNDAY 45,377

SUNDAY

OCT 10 1993

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Aborigines pitching in for tourism

By STEVEN MORRIS 6675

Chicago Tribune

In Australia's 600,000-square-mile Northern Territory, where only 175,000 people live, tourism has boomed in the last 20 years. The territory, much of which has been returned to Aboriginal ownership, is the site of some of the country's most dramatic scenery.

"But Aborigines were often the objects of the tourism rather than active participants," said Bill Baker, regional director, the Americas, for the Australian Tourist Commission.

Over the last decade, Aboriginal operators have slowly entered the tourism market. But they were excluded or confined to lower-level jobs.

Now, however, Australian Aborigines are starting to take a bigger piece of the \$50 million Aboriginal tourism industry. A group of them was in Chicago recently to make that point to the U.S. travel industry.

Aborigines, said Baker, "face many problems, not the least of which is a history of negative Aboriginal stereotyping by the broader Australian and international communities."

Ownership of Northern Territory land has helped encourage Aborigines to move into the tour

market. Of the 50 so-called Aboriginal tours operated in the Northern Territory, 10 are run by Aborigines, according to the commission. An estimated 20 tourist-related companies are now operated by Aborigines.

"In the past, a lot of safaris have been owned by non-Aborigines but were calling themselves Aboriginal tours," said Brian Rooke, who, with his wife, Phyllis Wilson, owns and operates Umor-duk Safaris, based in Darwin. For \$220 a day plus air fare, Rooke takes tourists to the bush country of western Arnhem Land, a one-hour flight by light aircraft from Darwin, home of the Gummulkbun Aboriginal clan.

Rooke is among 17 representatives of Aboriginal tour companies who are traveling in the U.S. hoping to lure business.

Rooke, 42, is descended from Aborigines in Tasmania, and Wil-

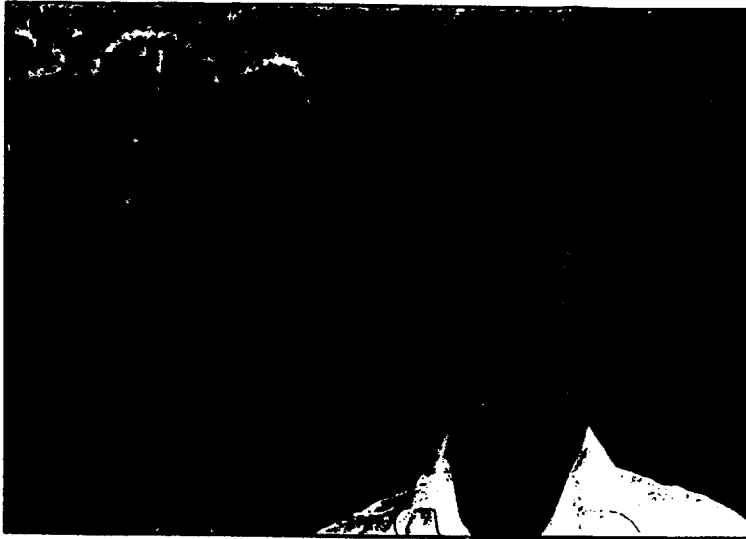
son is a Gummulkbun. Until four years ago Rooke operated a gardening business in Darwin.

"I loved going into the bush," he said, "and I was looking for a way to earn a living there."

His business is "the only Aboriginal-owned safari in Arnhem Land," he said. "We employ members of the community as guides, and the community gets a fee for the rights to operate tours there."

Harold Wilson, 25, town clerk of Peppimenarti, a community of 220 people, became the operator of his clan's tour business a year ago.

Peppimenarti was established in 1973 as a "cattle station," an Australian term for a ranch. "Now it's a community," said Wilson. "We set up the (tour) business three years ago as a means of self-determination. Aboriginal people want to be independent."



Tour leader Bill Harney in front of an aboriginal rock painting in Australia's Northern Territory

Photo by Laura Bly

SUNDAY STAR-LEDGER

NEWARK, NJ
SUNDAY 720,174

OCT 10 1993

The plight of tribal cultures

By
LAURA
BLY

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Human rights organizations claim tourism inadvertently victimizes indigenous people

Northern Territory Tourist Commission in Darwin.

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Please turn to Page 10 KR

Journey to an 'authentic' cultural experience

Continued from Page One

both for native cultures and the tourists who come to admire and learn from them. Here are some suggestions for smoothing the journey:

AVOID INVASIVE CURIOSITY—Each November thousands of tourists head for the small volcanic island of Janitzio, near the colonial Mexican town of Patzcuaro. There Purepecha Indians celebrate the Days of the Dead with a poignant, all-night vigil that combines Catholicism with the pre-Hispanic beliefs of their ancestors. And there, those same tourists have turned vigil into carnival—trampling on graves, swigging beer and sticking camcorders into worshippers' faces.

Not every breach of cultural privacy is as blatant as that at Janitzio. Sometimes, it's as seemingly innocent as asking questions about long-held, carefully guarded beliefs—and expecting answers that might better come from pre-trip research.

"Good tourism must create and protect pride and privacy," says Robertson Collins, a Singapore-based consultant with the Pacific Asia Travel Association.

RESPECT RESTRICTIONS—Many native cultures request visitors not to take photographs or make sketches of sacred sites or celebrations—a request that, in some cases, may be backed up with confiscation of the offending camera.

Even if you're not taking photos, be considerate of a site's spiritual or historical significance by tailoring your own behavior to that of your hosts.

In Australia's Northern Territory, for example, participants on some Aboriginal tours are separated into men's and women's groups because the knowledge presented is sex-specific. On other Aboriginal programs, visitors are taken to areas of special significance but are requested not to photograph or even talk about what they've seen.

FIND OUT WHO BENEFITS—Among questions the Center for Responsible Tourism based in San Anselmo, Calif., recommends asking potential tour operators: What percentage of the trip cost stays in the community you visit? Does the tour's pacing allow time to create or accept opportunities to interact with local people? Is there a pre-trip orientation program? Most important, how much input and control does the local culture have over the conditions of your visit?

DON'T IMPOSE STANDARDS—"Escaping to a civilization that has never seen raisins dance on TV or a Liz Claiborne label fascinates me," humorist Erma Bombeck once wrote.

"If I wanted to drink the water, speak English and eat Italian, I'd stay home."

Honorable sentiments, to be sure. But in the global village of MTV, CNN and "Terminator" videos, it's hard to imagine many places whose residents

haven't seen dancing raisins—or, thanks to visiting tourists, a pair of designer jeans.

As a result, you shouldn't expect your hosts to look as though they stepped out of the pages of a tattered National Geographic—and if they do, recognize what the exchange is meant to achieve.

Collins, of the Pacific Asia Travel Association, cites the Trans-Niugini Tour in Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea, as an example of a tour that works both ways. "There is an awareness on both sides that they are putting on a show," Collins says. "But, as it should be, there is a limit on our welcome; they show what they want to show."

"There may be blue jeans in the back of the house, but when (the villagers) are elaborately dressed, they are wearing the clothes they still wear for ceremonial events," he adds. "Further, the money they all earn goes to buy a new outboard engine for their market-canoe."

TRAVEL LOW KEY—By their very nature (small groups, off-the-beaten-track locations) many tours that concentrate on indigenous cultures tend to be expensive. All the more reason for those often wealthy tourists, says director Virginia Hadsell of the Center for Responsible Tourism, to journey as unobtrusively and undemandingly as possible.

SUNDAY STAR - LEDGER

OCT. 10, 1993

For information

Interest in native cultures is booming—and a growing number of mainstream travel companies and tourist offices are capitalizing on the trend.

In Alaska, representatives of the state's four largest native cultures—Eskimo, Aleut, Athabascan Indian and Tlingit—formed an Alaska Native Tourism Council late last year to promote everything from three- or four-hour tours designed for cruise passengers to overnight stays in remote villages.

Alaska Airlines Vacations offers a one-day \$315 trip from Anchorage to the Eskimo village of Kotzebue, about 30 miles north of the Arctic Circle. In Kotzebue, visits include a camp where village elders teach youths traditional crafts and survival skills. Telephone: (800) 468-2248.

Australia's Northern Territory provides a "Come Share Our Culture" brochure emphasizing Aboriginal programs and tours. Several focus on the region's prolific rock paintings, which range from recent depictions of contact with outside societies to designs that experts estimate could be anywhere from 20,000 to 65,000 years old. Phone: (800) 4-OUTBAC.

Overseas Adventure Travel, a Cambridge, Mass.-based adventure-tour operator, offers Canadian itineraries that focus on Inuit culture in a region that by the turn of the century will become part of a new Inuit-con-



Photo by Perry Eaton

Inupiat Eskimos of the North treat Alaska tourists to a traditional blanket toss. The 'blanket' is actually a walrus hide and the 'toss' is initiated when people pull outward on the skin

trolled territory called Nunavut. Phone: (800) 221-0814.

And in the American Southwest, major tour companies such as Globus-Gateway (800) 851-0728, Maupintour (800) 255-4266 and Special Expeditions (800) 762-0003 have launched new programs focusing on American Indians.

Sources

Center for Responsible Tourism; send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Box 827, San Anselmo, Calif. 94979; telephone number is (415) 258-6594. This non-profit organization is dedicated to improving awareness about Third World tourism and the importance of responsible interaction with other cultures. It publishes a

"Code of Ethics for Responsible Travelers" and a quarterly newsletter.

Cultural Survival, 215 First St., Cambridge, Mass. 02142; telephone number: (617) 621-3818. This human-rights organization, which specializes in native cultures, produces a quarterly magazine.

"Handle With Care: A Guide to Responsible Travel in Developing Countries" (Noble Press; \$8.95, by Scott Graham). Addresses sticky issues such as begging, haggling at markets and the ethics of traveling to countries with repressive governments.

Laura Bly is travel editor of the Orange County (Calif.) Register

SUNDAY STAR-LEDGER
OCT. 10, 1993

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BURRELLE'S

Aborigines become active in Australia tour industry

Knight-Ridder Service

In Australia's 600,000-square-mile Northern Territory, where only 175,000 people live, tourism has boomed in the last 20 years. The territory, much of which has been returned to Aboriginal ownership, is the site of some of the country's most dramatic scenery.

"But Aborigines were often the objects of the tourism rather than active participants," said Bill Baker, regional director, the Americas, for the Australian Tourist Commission.

Over the last decade, Aboriginal operators have slowly entered the tourism market. But they were excluded or confined to lower-level jobs.

Now, however, Australian Aborigines are starting to take a bigger piece of the \$50 million Aboriginal tourism industry. A group of them was in Chicago recently to make that point to the U.S. travel industry.

Aborigines, said Baker, "face many problems, not the least of which is a history of negative Aboriginal stereotyping by the broader Australian and international communities."

Ownership of Northern Territory land has helped encourage Aborigines to move into the tour market. Of the 50 so-called Aboriginal tours operated in the Northern Territory, 10 are run by Aborigines, according to the commission. An estimated 20 tourist-related companies are now operated by Aborigines.

"In the past, a lot of safaris have been owned by non-Aborigines but

were calling themselves Aboriginal tours," said Brian Rooke, who, with his wife, Phyllis Wilson, owns and operates Umerrduk Safaris, based in Darwin. For \$220 a day plus air fare, Rooke takes tourists to the bush country of western Arnhem Land, a one-hour flight by light aircraft from Darwin, home of the Gummulkbun Aboriginal clan.

Rooke is among 17 representatives of Aboriginal tour companies who are traveling in the U.S. hoping to lure business.

Rooke, 42, is descended from Aborigines in Tasmania, and Wilson is a Gummulkbun. Until four years ago Rooke operated a gardening business in Darwin.

"I loved going into the bush," he said, "and I was looking for a way to earn a living there."

His business is "the only Aboriginal-owned safari in Arnhem Land," he said. "We employ members of the community as guides, and the community gets a fee for the rights to operate tours there."

Harold Wilson, 25, town clerk of Peppimenarti, a community of 220 people, became the operator of his clan's tour business a year ago.

Peppimenarti was established in 1973 as a "cattle station," an Australian term for a ranch. "Now it's a community," said Wilson. "We set up the (our) business three years ago as a means of self-determination. Aboriginal people want to be independent."

The tours have been "pretty busy" the last year, Wilson said, but "it's going to have to take a while for it to really get going. It's like any new small business."

One impetus for the sprouting of Aboriginal tour businesses came from the cattle industry. Beef importers in the U.S. and other countries charged that some buffalo in Australia were infected with bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis, which could spread to cattle.

"In our area, a source of income for the clan was from working in the program for testing cattle in the 1980s. When that finished, they needed to look around for an alternative," Rooke said.

Some clans considered mining and tourism.

"Fortunately for everybody, they chose tourism," said Rooke. "That wouldn't have as much impact on the culture, the environment, particularly if the tourism was on a small scale."

Bill Harney, 62, who operates a business building fences for government installations and cattle ranches, started Jankangyina Tours in 1988, taking visitors on camping trips in what's called the Land of the Lightning Brothers, whose clashes, according to legend, established the seasonal cycles of storms and droughts.

Harney, who was raised in a rock shelter and never attended a school, says the business lets him "share my culture with white people" when he guides them on a trip.

The Outlook

FRIDAY
October 15, 1993

PLEA FOR ATTENTION



RICHARD N. LEVINE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Aborigines perform a tribal dance Friday at the Museum of Flying at the Santa Monica

Airport as part of a U.S. tour to entice visitors to Northern Australia.

Indigenous rights activists tell of struggles, need for reform

By Nick Madigan
STAFF WRITER

It's a matter of survival.

For many of the world's indigenous people, the battle to stay alive and safe in their own habitat has become a cause fought far beyond the confines of their ancestral homelands.

In the Los Angeles area this week, representatives of the Karen tribes of Burma, the East Timorese of Indonesia and the Aborigines of Northern Australia canvassed for attention at forums that ranged from a somber discussion panel at UCLA to a lighthearted presentation of song, dance and slides at Santa Monica Airport's Museum of Flying.

Even though the United Nations declared 1993 as the International Year of Indigenous Peoples, focus on their plight has had to compete with issues often more dramatic, such as war in the Balkans, chaos and starvation in Somalia and terror in the streets of Haiti. The declaration paid tribute to more than 300 million indigenous and tribal people — including Native Americans — living in 70 countries.

World Rainforest Week

In partial acknowledgement to them, the seventh annual World Rainforest Week begins Monday with the theme "Indigenous People and the Rainforest." Local events organized by the Santa Monica-based Rainforest Action Network include demonstrations at Mitsubishi car dealerships in Santa Monica, Torrance and Van Nuys to protest the activities of the conglomerate's huge logging subsidiaries.

At UCLA's Ackerman Union
INDIGENOUS/B3

RAINFOREST WEEK EVENTS

- **Monday, 7 p.m.:** Rainforest Action Network meeting, with updates on current campaigns. Volunteers welcome. 1431 Ocean Ave., at Santa Monica Boulevard, Santa Monica. For information on all events, call 458-2068.
- **Tuesday, noon:** Demonstrations at Mitsubishi auto dealers nationwide, including sites at 1501 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica; and 5425 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys.
- **Wednesday, 8 p.m.:** Grand opening of Amazonia Foundation's U.S. headquarters, with audio-visual presentation on the land of the Yanomami. 7421 Beverly Blvd., between Fairfax and La Brea avenues, Los Angeles.
- **Thursday, 6 p.m.:** Rainforest art exhibit reception and art sale, T. Heritage Gallery, 1062 Westwood Blvd., Westwood Village. Artists donated works to raise money for Rainforest Action Network. Normal gallery hours Tuesday-Saturday 12-9 p.m.
- **Sunday, Oct. 24, noon:** Demonstration at Mitsubishi dealership, 3131 Pacific Coast Highway, Torrance; and at dealerships in Santa Monica and Van Nuys.

Indigenous

FROM PAGE B1

on Thursday, activists from Burma, Alaska and East Timor gathered on a panel called "State of the Peoples: An Indigenous Rights Tour," which is traveling the country under the auspices of Massachusetts-based Cultural Survival Inc. to raise awareness of the indigenous struggles around the world.

"Most people, especially the young, are becoming aware of the fact that the resources of this world are finite, that unless we learn to live in a way that is sustainable, we're going to run into trouble," said Louisa Benson, a native of Rangoon, Burma, who has been in exile in the United States for 26 years and who spoke Thursday at the UCLA forum. "Many people feel that the indigenous people have lived in harmony with the earth and that a lot can be learned from the way they live."

Repression in Burma

In a quiet voice, Benson gave a detailed account of the Burmese military's repression of the country's tribal people, who, she said, have been systematically denied basic free-

doms, turned into slave labor, and massacred in untold numbers. In 1988, soldiers killed thousands of pro-democracy protesters, according to the human-rights organization Amnesty International. One of the most prominent opponents of the government, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who won the Nobel Peace Prize three years ago, remains under house arrest.

Still there is room for hope, said Benson, who lives in Santa Monica.

"There's much more of a sense of responsibility and awareness all over the world," she said. "As in most things, it

takes a few good people to take on the leadership, and eventually others follow."

In Burma — renamed Myanmar in the late '80s by its military rulers, a name that most people there ignore — the incessant logging of the world's last virgin teak stands is one of the more egregious sins against the environment, Benson said. Oil drilling in the ancient forests, much of it by U.S. firms such as Amoco and Unocal, has also left massive damage and displaced innumerable tribal people, she said.

In East Timor, a former Portuguese colony 400 miles north

of Australia, as many as 200,000 people have been killed by occupying Indonesian forces in the past 17 years, said Kevin Jardine, a member of the East Timor Action Network in Los Angeles. Foreign journalists are forbidden entry lest they spread the word, he said.

While most indigenous rights activists spoke of the need for reform and compassion, a group of Aboriginal tribespeople from Northern Australia showed Wednesday in Santa Monica that exploitation of native land can be accomplished without harming the people who live there. The answer is tourism.

The Outlook

Friday, October 15, 1993

B3

the ecologically minded kind.

'Legacy to travelers'

"There's an intense knowledge held by the Aborigine people in plants, animals and the environment," said Chris Burchett, who manages what he calls cultural tourism for the Northern Territory Tourist Commission. "Their knowledge is being passed on as a very generous legacy to travelers."

Burchett and several native tour operators were at the Museum of Flying on the last stop of a 14-city tour of the United States aimed at enticing Americans to visit Aboriginal areas of

Australia.

"We were already aware of the potential of tourism to destroy cultures," said Brian Rooke, a descendant of Tasmanian Aborigines and co-owner of Umorenduk Safaris, in Casuarina, Northern Territory. "But tourism can be managed sensitively, on a small-scale, exclusive basis, without it having an adverse impact on the country and its culture."

"In the last 10 years, the Aborigines have been more in control of their own culture," Rooke said. "They're starting to realize that they can take charge of their own destiny."

REPORTS

ON TRAVEL

THE TIDES



OF CHANGE: Pat Bell's Travel Trends

As the 1993 ASTA convention begins, the travel community focuses on both the "hot" new trends in the industry, as well as subtle shifts in itineraries which take place over an extended period of time. Below is a list that reflects evolving trends over the past ten years, as charted by Pat Bell, Gourmet's Travel Editor. We've asked leading travel executives to comment on ways they are responding to these new directions:

Importance of Value

This 90's buzzword means not so much bargain-hunting, but getting qualitative return. **Tom Slocum, V.P., Corporate Communications, Delta Airlines**, cites customer service as an example of the airline's commitment to value: "One of our traditional strengths has been superior customer service; we plan to provide that level of service as we move forward." Bargain-hunting does factor into some travel plans, according to **Mike Daw, Leisure Accounts Manager, USA Lufthansa**. "Because of the availability of special promotional fares, people are waiting until the last possible moment to lock in and ticket," he explained.

Rise in Active Vacations

Whether through "soft adventure," sports-oriented vacations or trips with a focus such as music, architecture, or shopping, many people are taking their special interests with them when they travel. **Angela Miller of Travcoa** stated, "We do soft adventure as a rule—there has always been an interest in tours of everything from safaris to music programs." One such adventure is a 20-day tour of Namibia's Skeleton Coast with game-viewing on elephant back in Botswana's Okavango Delta.

Shorter Vacations vs. Cashing Out

More and more travelers seek alternatives to the traditional two-week vacation, such as long weekends and long-term, sabbatical-type breaks. **Ressam Suzek, Director of the Turkish Tourism Information Office**, agrees: "People are staying in Turkey for longer periods of time to see the true Turkish culture—the local color, festivals, people, and natural beauty—beyond the architecture, cities and tourist sights."

Family Travel

With an increase in households with two working parents, vacations are now seen by many as an opportunity for quality time. Many resorts are responding with children's programs, such as **The Pointe Hilton at Squaw Peak, in Phoenix, Arizona**. To attract a greater share of the family market, in 1992 the resort introduced **Coyote Camp**, a year-round children's program emphasizing eco-tourism.

Eco-tourism

A return to nature has become a frequent getaway from stressful lives. Destinations such as Australia—with 2,000 national parks, reserves and refuges, including the 1,240-mile-long Great Barrier Marine Park—are rising in popularity. **Bill Baker, Regional Director, The Americas, Australian Tourist Commission**, commented, "While eco-tourism has come into vogue, it has always been the foundation of our tourism. Australia is very fortunate to have a great environment with wonderful landscapes and indigenous people."

An increased interest in environmentally-sensitive approaches also factors in. On Aruba, for instance, a golf course due to open in 1994 "has been designed to incorporate the desert vegetation of Aruba without disturbing the eco-balance of the island," explained **Charlie Ibarra, Director, Aruba Tourism**.

Combining Business and Pleasure

As a time- and money-saving measure, many travelers are extending the length of business trips for pleasure. **Inter-Continental Hotels** are located in some of the most exciting cities in the world, and we've found that our locations, coupled with our service offerings, are the ideal components for both business and leisure," said **Chuck Brownfield, Vice President Sales and Marketing, Americas, Inter-Continental Hotels**.

Other noteworthy trends: spur-of-the-moment planning, a continued growth in the number of people traveling, and more travel within older age brackets. As always, the travel community is tapped into the changing agendas of clients, and takes action to meet their needs.

**CANADIAN
PRESS RELEASES / INTERVIEWS**

MARKETING

TORONTO, ONTARIO, ON
WEEKLY 14, 1993

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CLIENTS

Jonathan Hatchell has been appointed general manager of Hart Breweries, Carleton Place, Ont. He will also take on the role of sales and marketing manager. Hatchell previously worked in field sales and management positions for Amstel Brewery.



Hatchell

Bill Baker has been appointed regional director, the Americas, the Australian Tourist Commission. Based in Los Angeles, Baker most recently served as the ATC's area manager, Central and Southern Europe, where he was based in Frankfurt, Germany. In his new position, Baker has responsibility for management and operations of all ATC activities in the U.S., Canada and Latin America.

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Australian travel can be a challenge

Budget travellers often contribute more to a foreign economy than they get credit for. For example, in a recent study the Australian Tourist Commission found that visiting backpackers were spending approximately \$155 million (U.S.) per year in the country.

Budget travellers visiting Australia are faced with the challenge of having to cover vast distances to reach the country and to travel around it. Their adventure is made easier, however, by the extensive networks of budget accommodation, some of which also arrange for discounts on transportation and other tourism services.

This enables visitors to experience a wide variety of unusual opportunities, without having to resort to expensive accommodation or tours.

For example, one of the most unusual towns in Australia is Coober Pedy, which is on the Stuart Highway, 860 km

north of Adelaide, on the bus route to Alice Springs. The name is aboriginal: it means "white fellow's hole in the ground."

It has been called this because the heat is often so intense that many of the homes, hotels, motels and businesses have actually been built underground. Budget travellers who want to experience this unusual lifestyle can stay at Radeka's Dugout Hostel, telephone (086) 72 5223, next to the underground Catholic Church.

Another of the most popular sites in Australia is Ayers Rock, a mammoth boulder whose above-ground section stretches for 3.6 km. It's an important cultural site for the Aborigines, who call it Uluru. Visitors like to climb the rock (its summit is 348 metres), learn about

the Aboriginal sacred sites at its base, and enjoy its ever-changing colors at sunset.

There isn't a hostel in the surrounding Uluru National Park but the Australian Youth Hostel Association (YHA) does recommend bunkhouse accommodation at the Red Center Hotel, telephone (008) 089 622, 20 km from Ayers Rock. The hotel is on the bus route.

Wildlife lovers might want to head down to Kangaroo Island, which is 112 km south of Adelaide. Koalas can be spotted in tree-tops and there are so many kangaroos that park picnic areas have fences around the tables to keep the dark-eyed fellows a safe distance from the food.

The island's Seal Bay is another fascinating site where visitors, accompanied by a park ranger, can approach the friendly creatures on the beach. This island's unusual wildlife even puts in appearances on the grounds of the Penneshaw Youth Hostel. At night Fairy Penguins often visit. You can reach the island by ferry from Cape Jervis, near Adelaide. The 40-bed privately owned Penneshaw Youth Hostel — (0848) 31284 — has a courtesy bus that meets travellers at the dock.

The Australian Youth Hostels Association is a network of 150 hostels that are affiliated with Hostelling International. Backpackers Re-

sorts of Australia is a national network of about 100 independent hostels. The cost of a bed in a dormitory room for either network starts at about \$10 Australian (\$9 Cdn.) per night. Many hostels have twin and double rooms available at slightly higher rates.

Both hostel networks provide guides with addresses, maps, membership information and discounts for other services (such as transportation). A limited number of copies are available from the Australian Tourist Commission, 2121 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 120 Los Angeles, Calif., 90067, telephone (310) 552-1988.

Information also is available directly from YHA, GPO Box 5276, Sydney, N.S.W. 2001, Australia, fax 011 61-2-261-1969, and from Backpackers Resorts Australia, PO Box 1000 Byron Bay, N.S.W. 2481, Australia, fax 011 61-66-84-7100 (the leaflet produced by Backpackers Resorts also includes several accommodation listings for Fiji, Hawaii and Papua New Guinea).

The Australian Tourist Commission also can supply you with a free copy of *Destination Australia*, a 136-page magazine packed with information to help you plan your visit. It includes information on budget accommodation and transportation. Copies are available by calling 1-800 333-0262.



**Youth
Scene**

Lucy
Izon

"Autumn Great Season for
Travel"

Orangeville Banner
Sept. 08, 1993

more than 100 top international golfers will compete on the Magnolia, Palm and Lake Buena Vista courses.

If your particular responsibilities allow you to travel farther afield at this season, you will find that airline fares are going down, as are most of the costs of land travel at your destination.

Example: During October, British Airways will cut 20 per cent from the cost of its London-Plus holidays in Britain and on the Continent. On these programs, London hotel prices start at \$37 a day (per person, double occupancy) and unlimited-



distance car rentals at \$17 - unusually low by overseas standards.

The program also includes 80 hotels in 27 European cities at as little as \$36 daily, and rental cars from \$28.

TRAVEL NOTES

Here are notes on news of current interest to travellers:

- On Sept. 11, British Pullman is operating an overnight excursion from London's Kings Cross Station to the

northern English city of York. Fare of \$780 (U.S.) includes four meals aboard the train, dinner in Castle Howard and sightseeing in York. British Pullman is owned by Venice Simplon-Orient-

Express.

- A customer-service centre has been opened by tour operator Canadian Holidays at Toronto's Terminal 3. It is open daily from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

- In the "Hollywood of Berlin," Babelsberg, the former UFA movie studios are open daily (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) to visitors. Such classic German films as Blue Angel, Metropolis and The Tin Drum were made there.

- Call the Australian Tourist Commission at 800-624-9617 for a free copy of Destination Australia, a 136-page guide to planning a vacation down under.

11 Sept '93

CALGARY HERALD

Agents up on Down Under

Canadian Press

If you need answers on Australia, you can call a toll-free number and be put in touch with a certified Aussie Specialist.

Aussie Specialists are travel agents who have completed a program on Australia that is offered by the Australian Tourist Commission. The specially trained agents can help clients save money and time planning a trip to Australia.

To reach an Aussie specialist in your area, call 1-800-333-4305 for a referral.

U.S. and Canadian arrivals to Australia for the period of October 1992 through March 1993 are up 12 per cent over the same dates last year, and are up eight per cent for the four years from 1989 through 1992. Authorities expect year-end 1992 arrival figures from North America will come in at 10-12 per cent over last year's.

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Australia still has a strong interest in the Canadian market despite the closing of the tourist office earlier this year, according to Bill Baker, newly-appointed regional director, The Americas for the Australian Tourist Commission. In fact, he said, in a recent visit to

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TRAVELWEEK BULLETIN

TORONTO, ONTARIO, CN
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Toronto, that closing the office meant that more money was available for consumer advertising and programs for the trade such as the *Aussie Specialist*. Some 316 travel counsellors in Canada have become Aussie Specialists, 24% of the North American total of 1,271. Baker said there are plans to cap it at around 2,000 but he said the program is continuing to evolve. The ATC recently referred its one millionth customer to a travel agent. Each consumer responding to ATC promotions receives the names of three Aussie Specialists nearest them. The Aussie Specialist designation belongs to an individual counsellor and not an agency. An advisory board of airlines, tour operators and travel agents will be set up for the Aussie Specialist program to look at things such as performance, productivity and behaviour. Baker said disciplinary action has already been taken against an Aussie Specialist who used names provided by the ATC and promoted another destination. The Aussie Specialist toll-free help line receives 150 calls per day with one quarter of these from Canada, said Baker who expects a 3-4% increase in the number of Canadian visitors this year to around 52,000. He said Australia seems to be everyone's dream destination and the big challenge is the conversion of people who want to go. He said airline capacity might be tight out of Canada during peak season but there is still excess capacity in the U.S. which keeps airfares down. The ATC is adding specialists of its own with Nigel Bramich, formerly of ANA, joining the

New York office to go after the meetings and conventions market and Andrea Williams, formerly of the British Tourist Authority, being the incentive manager. The ATC will be taking over some of the functions that were performed by offices of the individual Australian States which have been closing. This Partnership Australia initiative, outlined in a previous issue of Travelweek, between the national authority and the individual states is still being worked out but the ATC will take over much of the consumer and trade servicing and sending out of printed material. Next year is the Year of the Great Outdoors in Australia and a number of special interest events are planned. But Baker added: "We don't need to stress eco-tourism. We were doing this before the word was invented."

ATC Hasn't Forgotten Canada, Director Says

by Bruce Parkinson

While it may take a different form than in the past, Australia still has a firm commitment to Canada's retail travel agents, says the newly appointed regional director, The Americas, for the Australian Tourist Commission.

"I think we've led a movement (among national tourist offices) toward having fewer offices and using money in different ways. We are justifying our existence every year," says Bill Baker, who has spent 10 years with the ATC, most recently based in Frankfurt.

Australia closed its Canadian office last year, and put much of the money saved into direct-service, toll-free numbers aimed at both consumers and the travel community. Consumer advertising has also been increased, and Baker says Australia is spending about 25 per cent of the total being spent by long-haul national tourist offices in the Canadian market.

The ATC also introduced the "Aussie Specialist" programme last year, which arms travel agents with product knowledge and then offers them "hot leads" generated by the consumer response lines.

To date there are 316 "Aussie Specialist" designated travel agents in Canada, which represents almost 25 per cent of the North American total.

Baker terms the consumer response a huge success, saying there have been more than one million referrals to agents in North America to date. When consumers call for information on the destination, they are provided with the names and addresses of the three nearest specialists to their residence.

But Baker says the conversion rate of interest into "bums in seats" has to improve, and that designated agents will be monitored for their performance and may lose the designation if they aren't producing, or worse, are using the leads to

cross-sell to a different destination.

"The programme will undergo quite a bit of evolution in the next couple of years. We're aware of a lot of leakage of interest despite the fact we've confirmed that Australia is the dream destination for many North Americans. We know we have plenty of people who want to go to Australia. We need to up our conversion rate and we have to pay much greater attention to the point of sale."

There are now 316 Aussie Specialist agents in Canada

Baker says the amount of information landing on the desks of travel agents every day is just too much to handle, and that agents are already moving toward specialization because clients are becoming more knowledgeable, and agents can't possibly be well-briefed on all the world's destinations.

"We want to find those people with the capabilities and interest in selling Australia. We

couldn't possibly afford to do this for all agents," Baker says.

He expects the Aussie Specialist programme will be capped at about 2,000 agents in North America. The current number is about 1,300.

"We have a very definite goal of building a large team. This kind of relationship will build strong links, and as we gather specialists we can increase product knowledge and get them involved in proactively marketing to the consumer."

The ATC is looking to create an advisory board on the specialist programme, composed of agents, tour operators and airlines. Aussie specialists also receive regular communications and updated information, as well as individual discounts toward travel in Australia.

Baker says Australia is expected to host between 51,000 and 52,000 Canadians this year, up three to four per cent over last. "We'd be very happy with that," he says.

The pullout of Continental Airlines from service to Australia may have some negative effects in Canada, the director says. "It's possibly going to be tight in peak season from here, but it should be all right in the U.S. where there has been excess capacity."



The wonders of the Great Barrier Reef attract many

U.S.
PHOTO / INFORMATION
ASSISTANCE

Wine

enthusiast magazine®

August 1993

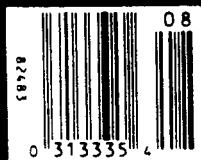
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Robert M.
Parker Jr.

PART II of the
Exclusive Interview



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australian wine tour

13 Glorious Days Down Under

Join The Wine Enthusiast on an exciting V.I.P. wine tour of Australia, featuring the best sights, sounds and sips of Sydney, Hunter Valley, Melbourne and Adelaide.

In Sydney, you'll enjoy a gourmet lunch cruise around the famous Sydney Harbor, soak up the sun on Bondi Beach and shop to your heart's content in the Double Bay district. After a full-day tour of historic Melvy's Wharf homestead and Hawkesbury River, it's off to Hunter Valley, Australia's most acclaimed wine region. Private V.I.P. tours have been arranged at Rothbury Estate and boutique producers such as Murray Robson, Marsh Estate and the Terrace Vale.

In Melbourne, tours of the city's unique gardens, architectural sites and the Arts Centre of Victoria will be followed by a visit to Phillip Island, home to fur seals, koalas and more than 2,000 enchanting fairy penguins.

More wine is on tap next in Yarra Valley, the oldest viticultural region in Victoria and home of Moët & Chandon's Australian operation. A short flight brings you to delightful Adelaide, the perfect base for touring the Barossa Valley. The landscape here is laced with the unmistakable presence of rich Germanic Silesian culture, and its Peter Lehmann and Penfolds wineries are world-renowned.

Of course, the outings mentioned here are just a sampling of what's in store. Each day will bring new experiences—the sounds of a native bush band...authentic Australian "barbie" cuisine...even mingling with peacocks and pheasants at a private country retreat. The trip will, of course, be filled with Australia's diverse wine offerings, from the famed Grange Hermitage and unique Coonawarra Shiraz to refreshing Semillon-Chardonnay blends and luscious late-harvest "stickies."

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any of them? They were shot. I see this time and time again. Things may change.

Wine Enthusiast: As we've noted they have at Mondavi once again.

Parker: Sterling is the greatest underachiever in Napa Valley because of the amount of financial resources behind them and the vineyards they have. They should be making profound wines when to me they are making some of the most innocuous, one-dimensional wines you can find. And charging high prices. And, yes, let's look more at Mondavi. Here's a guy who started off making natural wines, minimally processed, lightly filtered—although often the Reserve Cabernets are not filtered—and then he had a batch of Gamay Rosé or something go bad on him in '75 or so and at the same time Michael had moved more into marketing and Tim had moved into winemaking, and they started sterile filtering everything, including the reserve wines. I just did a vertical of Mondavi, and the Cabernets from '75 to '85 have had a wine lobotomy, although the '78 somehow survived the evisceration. There's no nose, the colors haven't really changed, and it's like putting a clipped, compact, nothing wine in your mouth. You go back to the '74 Reserve, '73, '71, and they're marvelous. Wonderful perfume, etc. Then in '86 they cut back on the filtration and you see some improvement, and then in '87 they went back to unfiltered, and put it on the bottle, and '87 is extraordinary, and in '89 and in disappointing years, the wines are not all that bad. Ask him why. He didn't do it because of Parker. I think he acknowledges that I was right because I was saying, "What the heck has happened to the Mondavi Cabernets?" They were like suspended, frozen. They didn't develop, they really didn't go bad, the fruit just subtly faded away. And were just very uninteresting wines. I'm saying wine is a beverage we should enjoy, and why drink stuff like that? And that's what these other California wineries don't understand, and I'm hoping that because of Mondavi's importance, his influence will be significant.

Which Wines Are Right for Aging

Wine Enthusiast: Let's continue with this aging issue. You recently wrote in a column in *Food & Wine* that most wines taste best within a year or two of the vintage. And you said there is a fallacy that most wines improve with age. And the idea

that most California Cabernets improve with age is a myth. Do you want to clarify that? Obviously most great wines do improve with age.

Parker: That's always been one of the great measuring sticks of great wines, their ability to improve. I'm not sure I always agree with that. There's something to be said for drinking a Chenin Blanc young or a Beaujolais after one or two years. It's a wonderful drinking experience. Because people believe wine must improve with age, there's this theory that it must be better or greater. Yes, you obviously have the Cabernet Sauvignon-based wines, Merlot, obviously Bordeaux, obviously Northern Rhône and certain selected Southern Rhône, certainly Piedmontese wines, Nebbiolo-based Barolos and Barbarescos, there's clearly improvement, a handful of Sangiovese wines. In Spain, most of the great Riojas are released when they are fully mature. I don't think they improve; they may hold their own. Vega Sicilia, a wine that's released after ten, fifteen years, is a wine that seems amazingly young when released. I'm not sure it really improves after that. Australia—Grange is the only one for me you can make a case for. And, of course, you've got a number of Loire wines—the great wines of Savennières, a great Côteaux du Layon—and the sweet wines of Barsac, Sauternes, but we are talking about a very limited number of wines. This goes back to my definition of aging, that is the ability of

"There is something to be said for the vivaciousness of a young wine—you see the varietal character expressed in a certain personality"

a wine to improve and be measurably more interesting and delicious at age five or age ten than it was when it was released, and I think most wines fail on that major measure. You go

through the process and most wines are not more interesting. They've lost fruit. I have sat down to tastings of 1928 and 1929 Bordeaux that were in pristine condition, and were for what they were marvelous wines and still had some fruit left and all these nuances that had developed. I'm not old enough to have known what they tasted like in '35, but I have a feeling that they were at their best in their first twenty years and now you are looking at museum pieces. There's an interest from a sort of academic point of view, and they're from a different era so you admire them for that, but on a hedonistic level? When you look at a wine you do so on two levels, a technical level and a hedonistic level—how much does it turn you on? What kind of thrill do you get? And to me that's a much more important standard of measurement. People get excited by most of those older wines, but that's be-

cause we've been programmed to believe they are better, but they're not.

Wine Enthusiast: But isn't there a bit of a contradiction in your rating system? To earn a 90, the wine has to drink well and live long, so ageability is a factor in all the great wines, in all the outstanding wines that receive a 90 rating or higher. Yet you're saying, in part, don't worry about drinking wines when they're old, drink them about when they're released.

Parker: I agree with what you are saying to a point. But there's no question that the primary coverage is on Cabernet-based and Syrah-based wines, and these are capable of aging. I think the big myth about aging is Pinot Noir where I tend to judge them just the way they are. My experience with red Burgundies certainly in the vintages since the early and mid-seventies is that they haven't really aged well. The good ones will last five, ten, twelve years, but to my taste I'll enjoy them over the first three or four years after release. There's no question that the wines that can improve with age are the greatest wines. But the point I was making in that *Food & Wine* magazine article is that very few wines do improve.

Wine Enthusiast: But in a way that's very good, though, for consumers. They don't have to worry about aging a wine.

Parker: Yeah, I'm almost fighting with my own idea. I'm suggesting anticipated maturity in a lot of tasting notes at the same time I'm saying if you like the way it tastes don't hesitate to drink it now. You may enjoy it more young. Some people wait too long to drink wines because they think there's a magical number. The legacy of the English wine-writing establishment is they never find the wines ready to drink. Find an English critic who says it's really ready. They're always pushing the maturity level back and back. We all laugh and say they like to drink these wines that taste like old stale tea, brown and with no fruit left. I don't know that's totally true, but they are taught to believe that claret just goes on and on and on. Look at the drinking habits of the French and Italians. They drink their wine young and exuberant. I find myself as I get older always saying I like them younger...referring to wines. There is something to be said for the vivaciousness of a young wine—you see the varietal character expressed in a certain personality. I don't like it too young. I make the analogy to children. If you go into a maternity ward and see all these babies, apart from different colors, they all look alike. And then as we grow we develop our characteristics. But if you go into a home for the aged, you end up again saying

Australian countryside captivates

Friendly hamlets preserve history

By MARGE HANLEY
News Correspondent

BEECHWORTH, AUSTRALIA — We felt the pulse of Australia in Sydney and Melbourne, but we touched its heart in the country. The beat was slow, but strong. The rhythm steady, but lively.

In Beechworth, nestled in the rolling countryside of Victoria, we rode the stagecoach past the butchery and green grocer. Ate meat pies, grilled lamb chops and homemade chutneys at a picnic in the park. Listened to Lazy Harry, country music

recording artist, sing "Waltzing Matilda." Shopped for antiques and revived pioneer crafts in quaint shops. Slept surrounded by Victorian bric-a-brac in a rose-bedecked cottage. Sipped soft drinks named for the legendary outlaw, Ned Kelly, and hoisted a Foster's bitter in the local pub.

This hamlet north of Melbourne was a booming mining town of 43,000 with 96 pubs during the 19th-century gold rush. Its present 3,500 residents have reclaimed its heritage, refurbished its frontier buildings and laid

See ● AUSTRALIAN C-2



"Lazy Harry," whose repertoire includes "Waltzing Matilda," captures the character of the Australian countryside.



Marge Han

Visitors experience a bit of pioneer past when they ride stagecoach through Beechworth in South Australia.

INDIANAPOLIS NEWS

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Australian: Sheep, chintz abound

● Continued from C-1

their hearts on their doorsteps to welcome tourists.

Numerous villages and towns in the undulating farm and pasture land of southern Australia have become meccas for meandering visitors. During the mid-1800s, this was the frontier, to which ranchers came to raise sheep and prospectors came to mine gold and copper.

They built simple, functional homes and buildings of stone and slate dug from local quarries. Today some of the tiny towns are preserving their prairie look and rekindling their pioneer heritage to fire up interest in tourism.

While the picturesque scenery and colonial history attract many Australian travelers, Americans appreciate the rural folk. Friendly,



unpretentious and open, Aussies seem genuinely glad to welcome U.S. visitors. No "Yankee go home" here. In fact, Australians relate more closely to the United States than to their mother country, England, citizens say.

Our group of American food

writers visited not only Victoria, but the countryside of South Australia, where tourists trek to visit the ubiquitous vineyards and wineries.

The Clare Valley, north of Adelaide, was settled by sheep farmers in the 1840s. Some of the remaining sheep stations that raise prized Merino wool also take in tourists.

Bungaree Station north of the town of Clare was our stop. With wool prices plummeting, owners George and Sally Hawker turned to tourism to save the station. George's great-grandfather established in 1841. They have converted six of the original sandstone cottages into guest houses with sitting rooms, bedrooms, modern kitchens and baths. The honeymoon suite is the former stallions' box, and the shearers' quarters include seven bedrooms to house up to 30 people — budget-priced accommodations for backpackers and campers. Guests can watch sheep-shearing, feed the farm animals, learn to make damper (bread) or fire up the bar-bec.

Sally Hawker took us on a tour and told us about the heyday of the station, when it covered 267 square miles and was a self-sustaining community with 12 buildings, including the 36-room main house, a school, a store and an Anglican church. The original owner built the church in 1864 to save the souls of the jackaroos (trainees), but they wouldn't come to services until he paid them to attend. Now guests pay to save the church and the station.

Thorn Park Country House, also in the Clare Valley, is far more than a bed and breakfast.

Owners David Hay and Michael Speers treat their guests to gracious living and sophisticated din-

Australia

For more information, contact:

- Australian Tourist Commission, 1-310-552-1968 or 1-800-333-0199.
- South Australia Tourism, 1-714-852-2270.
- Finches of Beechworth Country Guesthouse, 3 Finch Street, Beechworth, Victoria 3747, Australia.
- Bungaree Sheep Station, Box 231, Clare, South Australia 5453.
- Thorn Park Country House, College Road, Sevenhill, South Australia 5453.
- Mintaro Mews, Mintaro, South Australia 5415.
- The Lodge Country House, RSD 120, Sepeltsfield, South Australia 5355.

ing. How about asparagus-coriander soup, rack of lamb with mil chile glaze, baby vegetables and brown sugar ice cream with fresh fruit for dinner? Hay also offers two-day cooking schools, limited to eight guests who want to learn his Asian-spiked Australian recipes.

Floral chintz brightens the drawing room of the 1850s storied homestead; and the formal dining room, library and four bedrooms (with private baths) are tastefully appointed with Victorian antique.

Mintaro Mews was the most historic — a delightful blend of rustic charm and modern comfort. The main building of the Mews once was a granary in the heritage settlement of Mintaro, population 80.

You don't have to stay at the inn to enjoy the restaurant. The chef raises many foods he cooks, including the ducks he prepares with red wine, figs, ginger and garlic — delicious.

Guests can tour historic Mintaro and stately Martindale Hall, a restored Georgian mansion nearby. Most visit some of the 23 wineries in the Clare Valley, where the quality of the hospitality equals the art of the vintners.

The Lodge is a handsome stone country house in Barossa Valley, another top wine-producing region in South Australia. The luxurious accommodation offers four appealing bedrooms with private bathrooms, sitting room, library, outdoor pool and lawn tennis court — all surrounded by three acres of gardens.

Melbourne

Chelsea down under

Slinky satin suits and
aromatic frangipani

CHAPEL STREET, A TWO-mile stretch of idiosyncratic boutiques and noisy cafés characterized by its iron-roofed verandas and black-clad habitués, is the antipodean answer to London's King's Road. The younger fashion designers have gravitated here, and so too have their clients.

The busy corner of Toorak Road and Chapel Street is the place to start a tour. Look for the stag heads that gaze at you from the walls of the new boutique of rising star **1 Peter Zygouras**, at No. 588, whose Gothic gowns and slinky satin suits are lovingly named Vampira and Eva Braun. Across the street, at No. 575, **2 Indigo** has long been the place to go for independent fashion. Well before crocheted jackets and bell-bottoms were back in style, you could find them here.

At No. 553, **3 Rich** mixes men's plaids with elegant women's day wear. Look here for flannel shirts and chic gangster pinstripes. The eponymous **4 Morrissey Edmiston**—at No. 549—is an airy shop featuring the work of two of Sydney's best young designers, known for both their men's and their women's

on the side Have a bite to eat and soak up the atmosphere at one of the city's famed watering holes, *Caffè e Cucina* (581 Chapel), a small, boisterous Italian café. You just might overhear some local gossip. If you can't get a table, walk down the street to the *Iguana Cafe, Bar & Grill* (564 Chapel). Recharge yourself at the *Continental Cafe* (132A–134 Greville St.) with a *macchiato*, while being entertained by the gallivanting of the bright, young, and often famous people who treat this restaurant like a private club.

wear: bright cotton shirts, good suits, beautiful big skirts. A few stores down, **5 Scanlan and Theodore**, at No. 539, showcases the work of Fiona Scanlan, one of Australia's most brilliant young creative minds. Her floppy crepe blouses and forties suits are standard-issue street wear in these parts.

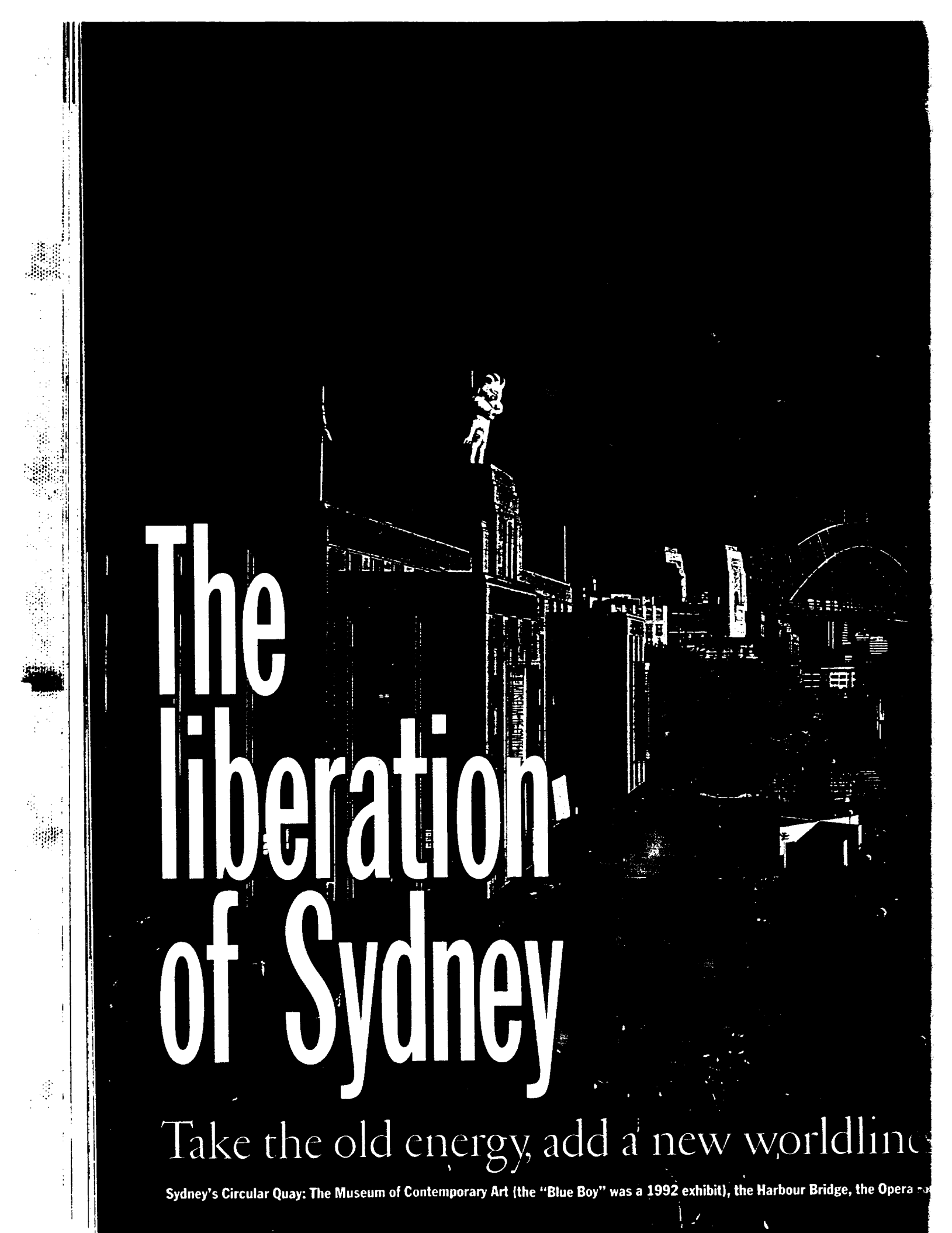
Over the railway line, at No. 525, is **6 Red Earth**, Australia's answer to the Body Shop, redolent of passion fruit and frangipani. Opposite, the historic Jam Factory arcade houses several shops, including a branch of the country's most prestigious department store, **7 Georges**, recommended for its fashion and decorative accessories. A cluster of small clothing boutiques in the next two blocks—**8 Sempre L'Unico**, **Donna Carlota**, **Christopher Chronis Design**, **Veronica Lodge**, and **Bettina Liano**—will give you a good chance to see what's new with local designers.

9 King Enterprises, at No. 450, is a delight: The minimalist decor highlights blond-wood cabinets, whimsical jewelry, and the occasional eccentric piece for the table. Many articles are embellished with the shop's witty crown insignia. A hot tip for hair: Around the corner on Wilson Street (450 Chapel), visit Kevin Murphy of **10 Kusco-Murphy Salon**—especially if you're headed out on the town and need a quick refresher. **11 Perruche**, at No. 437, is perfect for extravagant party dresses in satins and frivolous tulle by such leading young designers as Jenny Bannister.

From this point on, you will begin to notice that the street scene on Chapel has turned, well, grungy. Stop your tour here, or take a brisk walk to Greville Street, five minutes farther along, and browse the secondhand-clothing stores and the marvelously eclectic **12 it incl.**, at 157–159 Greville, a New Age department store that combines the best work of local artisans and designers. **13 Kili City**, at 126 Greville, specializes in crime books.

—Lee Tulloch

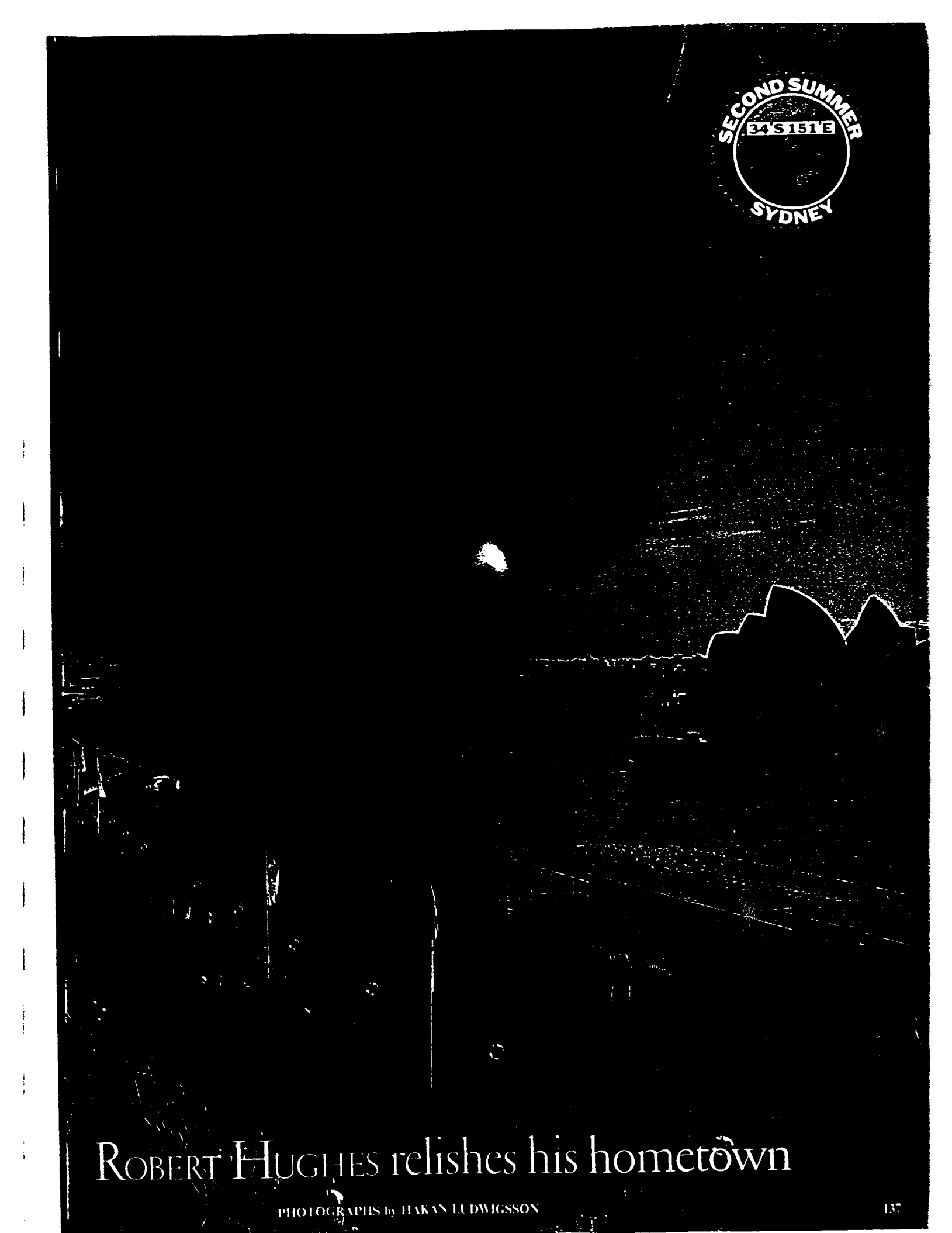




The liberation of Sydney

Take the old energy, add a new worldline

Sydney's Circular Quay: The Museum of Contemporary Art (the "Blue Boy" was a 1992 exhibit), the Harbour Bridge, the Opera



SECOND SUMMER
EAST
SYDNEY

ROBERT HUGHES relishes his hometown

PHOTOGRAPHS by HAKAN LUDWIGSSON

Swimming in the open harbor isn't advised—but not because of dirty water.

IN THE NINETEEN FIFTIES, WHEN I WAS GROWING up in Sydney in a house above the harbor, one of whose blue lobes showed through the glossy foliage of a loquat tree in which red-arsed bulbuls flirted at the edge of our garden, two things seemed obvious to me.

The first was that the place would never change much.

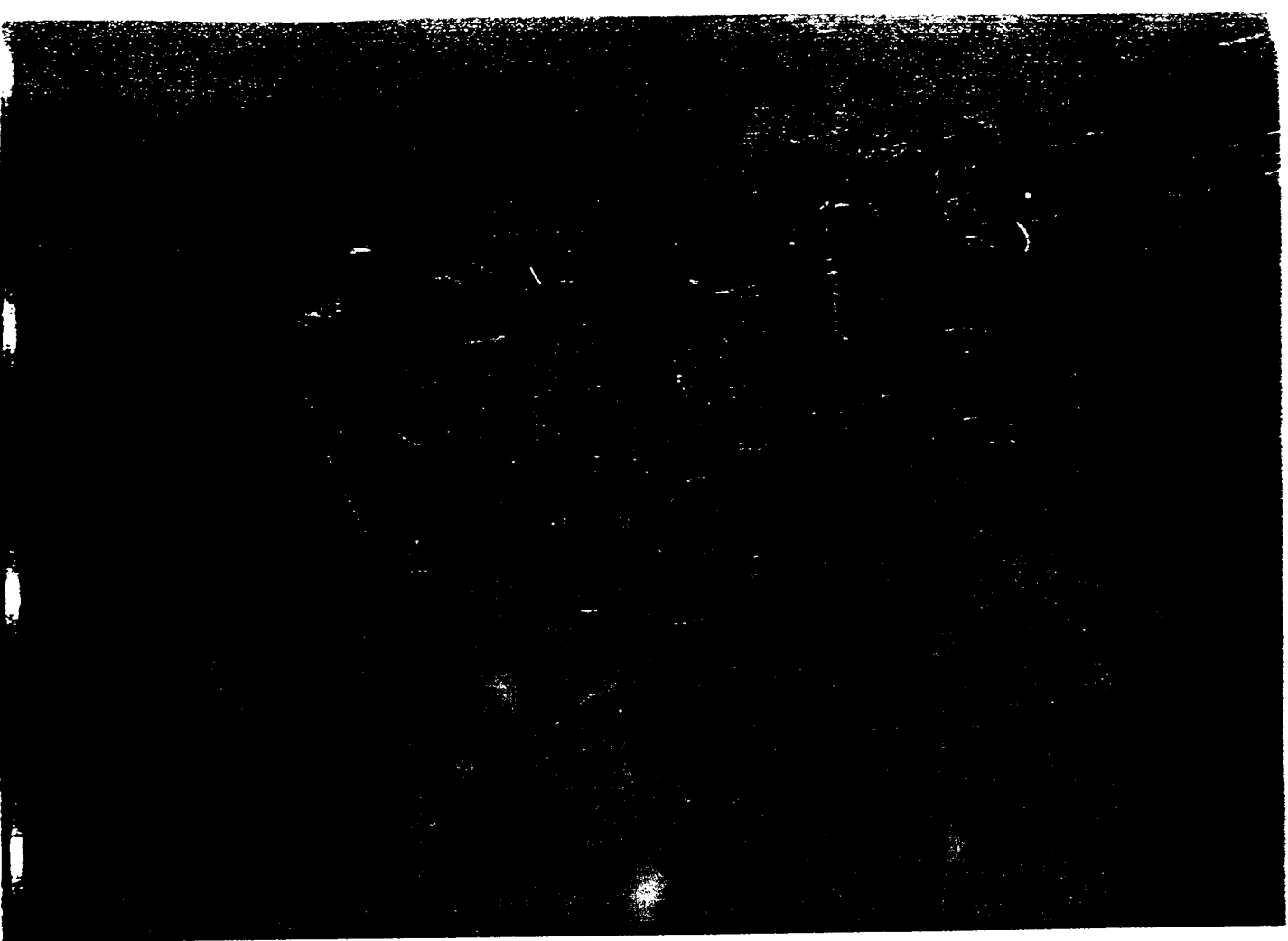
The second, also wrong, was that foreigners would never make a point of coming in any numbers to see it: It was too far away from the rest of the world, just as the rest of the world (known from books, names in the atlas, skimpy press stories about the revolt in Hungary or the Suez crisis) was too far away from us.

You could grow up in Sydney in those days without seeing an American, except for sailors off the Pacific fleet. Sydney was full of Americans during the Second World War—"over-sexed, overpaid, and over here"; girls wore ankle-strap shoes known as Yankee-catchers. The town would fill up with them again in the Vietnam years. But in the fifties and early sixties, the Americans were so uncommon that one could pick them out. Once in a while, the Matson Line would decant a couple of hundred elderly tourists at Circular Quay, the ladies in billowing muumuus and their husbands in peculiar burgundy- or saffron-colored blazers. As soon as they were on the concrete, they would gaze around with mild ruminant alertness, looking for the kangaroos and platypuses they had heard so much about. Texas with cute living fossils: That was their idea of us.

As for the Japanese, the very idea of a Japanese visitor would have struck any Sydneysider as laughable. The first Japanese visitors anyone remembered were the three midget submarines that sneaked into the harbor in May 1942. Two midgets sank in deep water. The third fired torpedoes at the U.S.S. *Chicago* but missed and sank a ferry, the *Arakabul*, tied up for the night with thirty sailors sleeping the booze off on board. What happened to it after that remains a mystery. So much for Japanese tourism.

Not now. Apart from the fact that the Japanese, as any Sydney taxi driver will complain to you, "own half the bloody country anyhow," tourism (including Japanese) has turned into one of the chief Australian industries, and the vast majority of visitors come into the country through Sydney. Hotels have mushroomed, and Sydney has become, rather self-consciously, a visitors' city.

The provinciality that seemed to characterize Australian society, and could be plainly seen in Sydney twenty-five years ago, is all but gone. To a striking degree, the city's habits have softened. Its harsh, intolerant machismo—the bad-drear side of "mateship," which ran from the Anglophilic stuffiness of the Establishment clubs to the raucous all-male suburban pubs—has toned down. Sydney is no longer quite so keen on the ocker (Pacific redneck) image of the Australian: beer gut thongs, nasal foghorn voice, and a truculent certainty that short of Paradise itself, Australia is the only ticket and that the rest of the world only displays its inferiority by not neces-



No one has been eaten by a shark in Sydney in years—perhaps because of lifeguard drills like this one at Manly Beach.

sarily wanting to come here. "Which the bastards all do, but they don't admit it.")

People worry about Ocker and would not want you to suppose that he lurks under their skin. The Australia he represents (or so people in Sydney will tell you, not without an apotropaic glance over the shoulder) is a thing of the past. However, it was preserved in "export culture" during the eighties—especially in the films that Australians made with an eye to the American market, like *"Crocodile Dundee"*—with the result that Americans still land in Sydney expecting, if not a welcoming of marsupials, then certainly the last refuge of unselfconscious masculinity.

And if they come in February, what do they get? Among other things, the gay Mardi Gras, which draws up to half a million people and once featured (right along with the leather-jacketed lesbians on their motorcycles and the blue elephant shambling along with a condom over its trunk and a sign announcing that elephants never forget to have safe sex) a truck bearing a longboat in which stood an aboriginal dancer attired as Captain Cook. "It is enough trouble being

black, let alone gay," he told the press at the time. "That is why I am determined to put this float in the Mardi Gras."

A black, gay Captain Cook? Can this be the same city as the one in which, thirty years ago, the minions of "Bumper" Farrell—the corrupt and much-feared chief of the Sydney Vice Squad—used to decoy homosexuals in the public lavatory in Martin Place? Was it from here that Sir Eugene

I became aware of a bumping: An enormous brute was rubbing its skin on the hull like a cat on a post

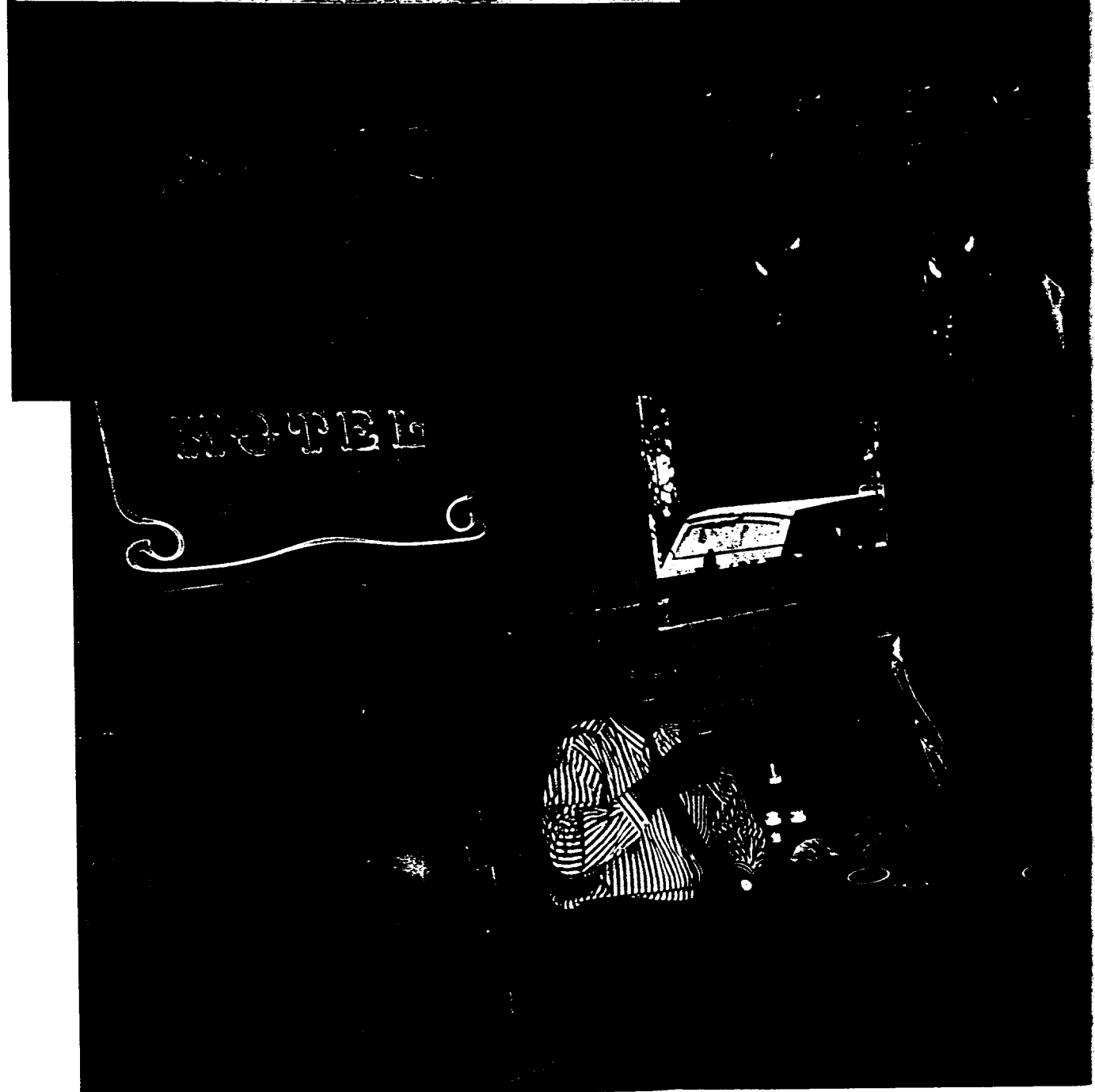
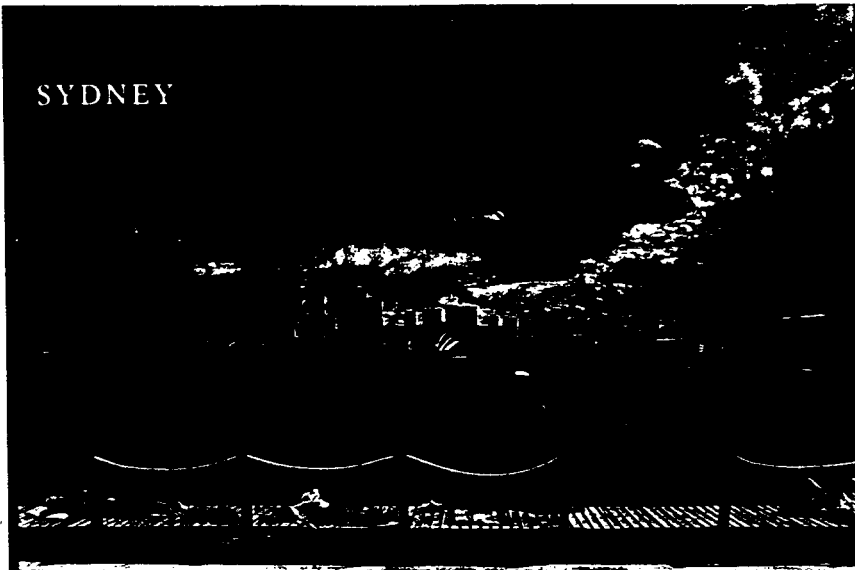
Goossens, head of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, fled in disgrace when "rubber articles and masks" were found by customs officials rummaging in his bags?

The answer, broadly, is yes and no.

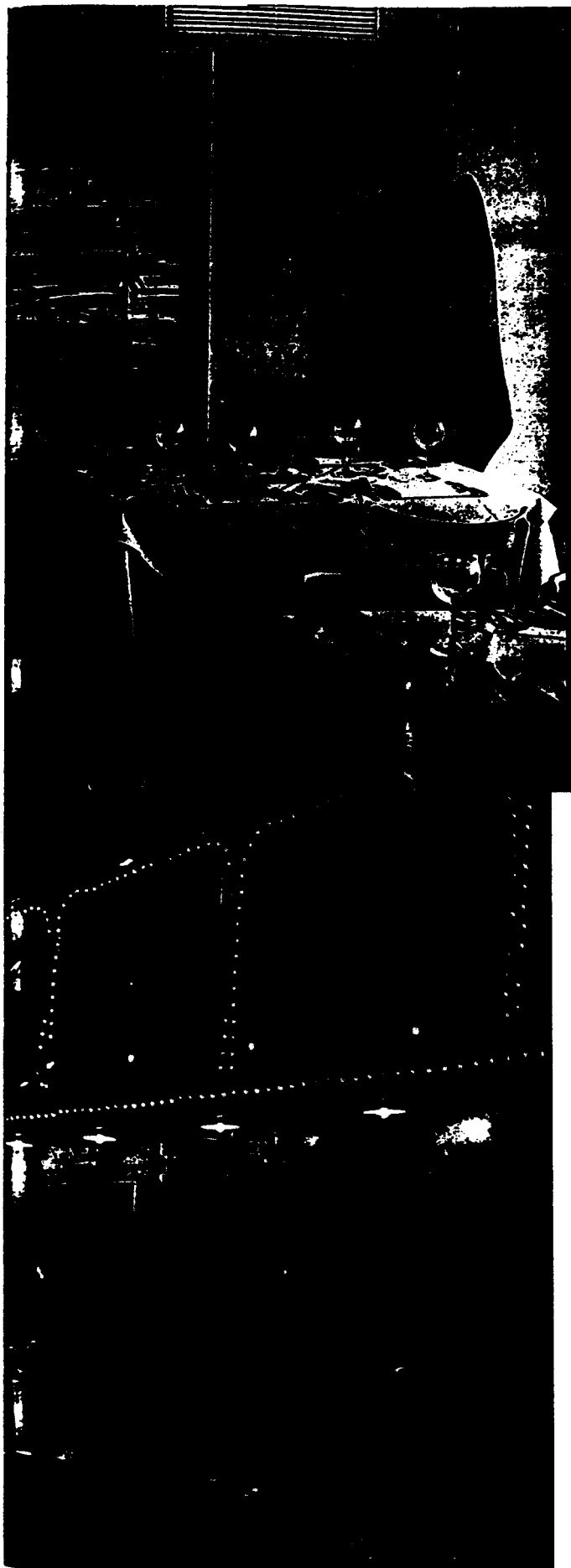
Fundamentalist religion, the motor of American moralizing in the eighties, never caught on in Australia. Hot-gospel-ing evangelists rarely crossed the Pacific from America. Oral Roberts tried once in the fifties but came up so empty that he is said to have proclaimed, on departure, that Sydneysiders

SYDNEY

"Imagine what



Matisse would have made of this"



were godless and irretrievably damned—old news to us. Sydney has a raucous lobby shoving plastic fetuses in the faces of scared teenagers outside clinics, just like America. But these clone movements have nothing like the political power they have in the United States and are unlikely to get it, because at this level, Australians—especially in Sydney—are more tolerant than Americans.

Nevertheless, the struggle between the Good and the Unredeemed runs quite deep in Sydney life: How could it not, in a city that began as a jail? Compared with America, this is still a surprisingly authoritarian society: laid-back and easy, the visitor thinks, but without a Bill of Rights or a popular Constitution (ours was couched entirely in terms of British imperial interests and contains hardly one democratic clause).

In the fifties and early sixties, Sydneysiders could put up with every sort of constraint and still tell you that they were the freest people in the world because they could knock off and go surfing at lunchtime. A residue of this feeling still lingers, and it may help explain the talismanic importance Sydney attaches to its emblems of leisure and pleasure—the sun, the harborside life, the benign blue sky, the white squeaky-sand Pacific beaches covered with tanned and glistening bodies, the wine, the beer, the prawns.

In any case, one would have to be crazy *not* to revel in them. In my twenties, having overdosed on Cyril Connolly and his nostalgic vision of Mediterranean hedonism in *The Unquiet Grave*, I was longing to leave; when I did, it took me two years of living on the coast of Italy to admit that, apart from ruins, tombs, and frescoes, much of what I had wanted on the edge of that dying sea was what I had left behind in Sydney, and some of it not as good. "Can you imagine," an ecstatic English painter remarked to me a few years ago, as we were walking from his visitor's studio in the Art Gallery of New South Wales across the green expanse of the Domain, in the blowing salt air and the high crystalline light, "what Matisse would have made of this if he had seen it?"

WHAT SYDNEY MADE OF MATISSE IS ANOTHER matter. It used to be the case that local art museums, wherever they were, tended to concentrate on local art, so that what one saw on their walls gave a strong impression of the culture in which they were rooted. For the last twenty-five years there has been an increasing degree of internationalization, so the same *menu touristique* of contemporary art tends to reappear all over museum walls in the West. This has never been quite so in Australia, partly because (when Picassos and Pollocks and Beuyses were relatively cheap) the museums did not want the work of European and American avant-gardes and so tended not to buy it, and partly because when taste changed in the seventies and eighties, the

Let the good times roll: Clockwise from top left, harborside pool; Bathers Pavilion restaurant, Balmoral Beach; bar at the Royal Hotel, Paddington; Australian Hotel, The Rocks.

overseas art had become far too costly for their limited buying budgets. The same, in Sydney, was true of Old Masters. Thus, when you approach the tawny sandstone bulk of the Art Gallery of New South Wales, superbly sited on its bluff above

Woolloomooloo Bay, you will see inscribed on its facade in bronze letters a kind of cultural mantra: the names of a whole string of artists—from Giotto to Andrea del Sarto, Michelangelo, Donatello, Rubens, and Rembrandt—who are not, in fact, represented in its collection. This queer expression of Edwardian cultural fantasy—whistle and they will come, so to speak—used to strike us as the height of deceptive advertising. The gallery has no significant works by French Impressionists, either, because the trustees were simply too provincial to want them.

But does the visitor really care if he finds no Rubenses at the end of the long flight to the Antipodes? Of course not. He will want to see Australian art, which is represented in profusion. The Art Gallery has a superb collection of Australian Impressionists—Tom Roberts, Arthur Streeton, Frederick McCubbin—the generation of the 1880s that gave vivid form to the particular light, color, and structure of the Australian coastal bush. It is also one of the three “collections of record” (the others being in Melbourne and Canberra) of modern Australian art, from 1940 through to our fin de siècle. For art of the colonial period, our first century, the visitor should cross the Domain and study, or at least skim, the collections of the State Library of New South Wales, which are unrivaled. For aboriginal art, a subject of ever-increasing fascination to visitors, the place to go is the Australian Museum.

AND FOR GARDENERS, OR SWIMMERS, THE “GREEN museum” of Sydney is the Royal Botanic Gardens, the city’s finest Victorian artifact, surrounding the spot by the harbor where the first burrows for convicts were dug and sown by convicts in 1788. A very good way to start the day, if you are an early riser and staying in one of the big inner-city hotels, is to take a taxi to the saltwater swimming pool, which opens at 6 A.M., swim a few laps, and come back on foot through the gardens.

Make it easy, mate. Just a few every day and it gets like walking. Easy as walking, just like Jesus.” Thus the twenty-year-old to the founder of the fifty-year-old. It may not. Stay in the duffers’ side lanes, where you can stop and hang on to the edge of the middle ones reserved for the serious lap swimmers, who will churn over you like trucks on the Hume High-

“Eat like a pig, drink like a fish,
smell like a rose.” This says
something about Sydney’s appetite

way. The walk back through the Botanic Gardens, acres of terraced green between the harbor and the city, whose wakening growl of traffic seems very far off, is a capsule introduction to Australian nature: thousands of species, exotic to you (and many of them to us), from tiny delicate cacti and ground covers up to the huge Moreton Bay figs with their ridged, elephant gray roots, in whose branches kookaburras laugh and colonies of white cockatoos sit squalling in the limpid early light.

A CITY CHANGES GREATLY in twenty-five years. The physical changes are the ones that strike the returning expatriate first. But even more striking is how much Sydney’s very language has altered. We have learned psychobabble, public relations cant, and New Age blather. One hears the transpacific words: *self-actualization*, *creativity*.

Granted, the mincing euphemism that has rotted American public speech has not quite attained its full force here: In Australia the blind can still lead the blind, without obliging one to speak of the visually challenged adopting a hierarchical relationship to their peers. My Californian wife was once jolted to read SPASTIC BUS on the flank of a Sydney public health vehicle.

But the great Australian vernacular, with its sharp slang and improbable flights of metaphor, in whose pungency a rich national literature was rooted, is going, smothered by Australian TV. Sydneysiders still have their laconic habit of chopping off the ends of words and tacking on an *o* or an *ie*: “garbo” for garbage collector, “gerrie” for geriatric. But you no longer hear them complain that the weather is “wet enough to bog a duck,” that they are “flat out like a lizard drinking” (very busy), or that, when luck is bad, “If it was raining palaces, I’d get hit by the shit-house door.”

Only the accent is imperishable—high in the nose, drawling, flat, and brown. It is not, as so many Americans imagine, related to Cockney, and its origins remain an utter mystery. One knows only that it was in place, and being complained about by supercilious visitors as a “detestable snuffle,” as early as the 1820s.

Sydneysiders are what everyone says—hospitable, friendly, and curious. They were egalitarian once, and still preen themselves on that reputation, but they no longer are. Under the surface of a fraternal style, the breezy exclamations of “G’dye, mate,” and the ready approachability that visitors are apt to interpret as signs of an unworried society where divisions of class play no big part, the lessons of the 1980s bored in deep.

Not that Sydney isn’t still a genuinely civil city. Its citizens keep to standards of public behavior that simply no longer exist in any American city of four million people. A visiting American journalist, Susanna

Gaertner, wrote with amazement some months ago: “You sit on one of those benches under a splendid palm beneath a sky the colour of prewar Meissen and no one will bother you, beg, hassle, play a boom box, much less mug or rob you.”

But in the eighties, just like New York or London, Sydney learned to be obsessed with indexes of status, wealth, and power. There was serious (*Continued on page 163*)

Follow the sun

Given the chance, Sydneysiders would hand you their city wrapped up in a bow. To get some real hometown expertise about where to go, where to stay, and where to eat, see “In sync with summer,” opposite.

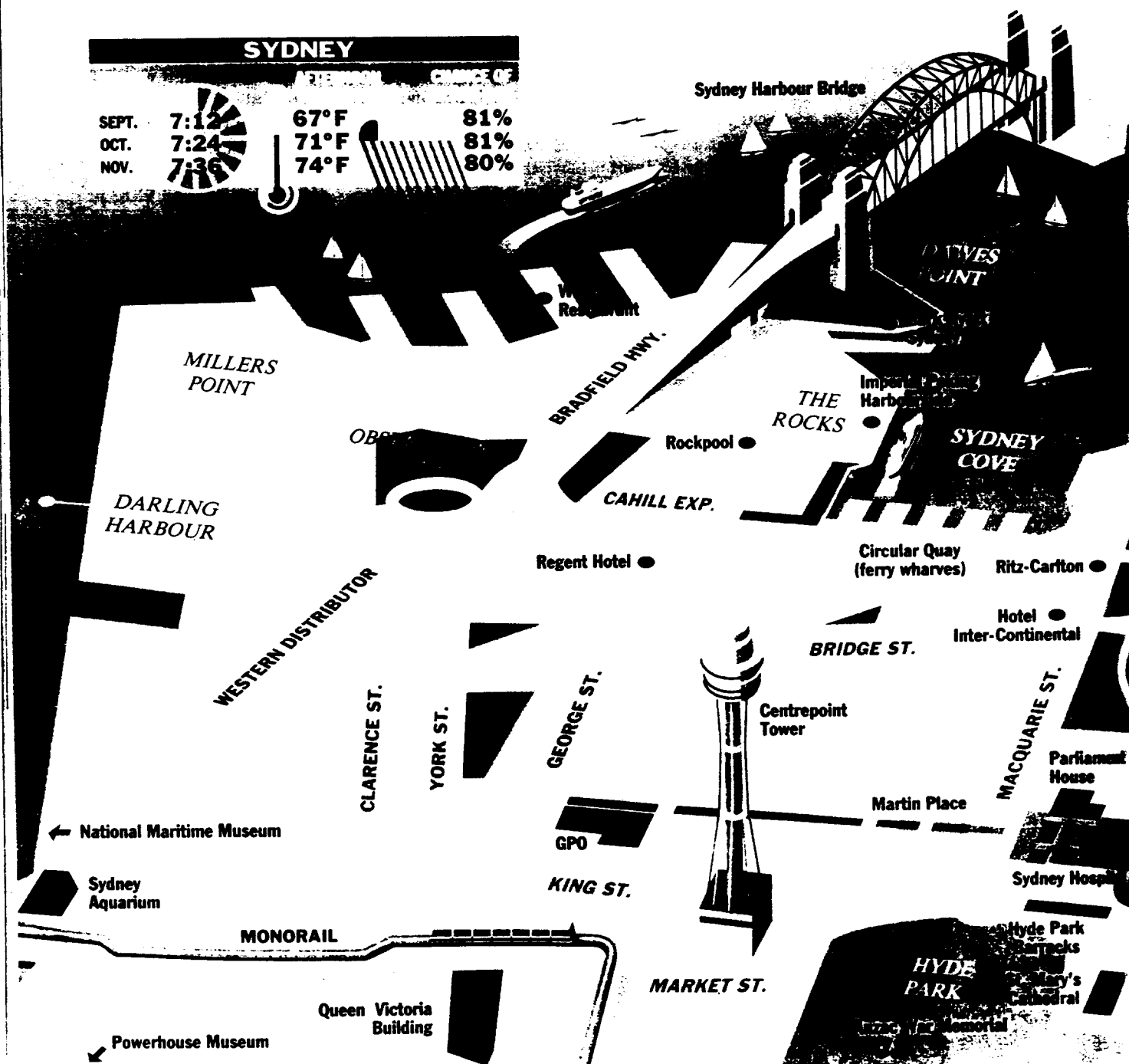
You might also want to try the **Oberoi Bogmalo Beach** (Bogmalo; 800-562-3764 or, in Goa, 91-834-52191; doubles from \$70) or, for those on a budget, the **Prainha Cottages by the Sea** in Dona Paula (book through Palmar Beach Resorts, Glendela, Rua de Ormuz, Panaji; 91-832-44162).

The food in the big hotels is usually good, but you would be wise to seek out some of the excellent small restaurants. It is usually in the most unpretentious places that you find the best Goan cooking, especially the delicious fresh seafood in sauces that are halfway between a Portuguese hot pot and an Indian curry: herbs, tomatoes, and onions cleverly blended with chilies and coconut. Two of the best restaurants I visited were the **Casa Portuguesa**, at Baga Beach (no

Anthony Hutt's *Goa* is an excellent introduction (Interlink Publishing Group, \$19.95). For history, try M. N. Pearson's *The Portuguese in India* (Cambridge University Press, \$44.95) or *Albuquerque: Caesar of the East*,

—William Dalrymple

Sydney without its harbor would be Manhattan without skyscrapers. London without parks. On summer evenings, as the sun sets behind the Sydney Harbour



Bridge and the sky turns peach, the show outside the Opera House routinely rivals the one within.

The must-dos are, of course, the Opera House tour (61-2-250-7250) and the 200-step climb up the southeast pylon of the Harbour Bridge (61-2-218-6923). Then get waterborne at **Circular Quay**, the nerve center of Sydney's harbor crafts, from which it's 12 minutes to koalas, kangaroos, and other, less-fabled fauna at **Taronga Zoo** in Mosman (61-2-969-2777); 15 minutes to the shops, restaurants, action, and the **Powerhouse Museum** (61-2-217-0111) at **Darling Harbour**. Old-fashioned ferries and newfangled Jetcats pass the Opera House, Fort Denison, Bradleys Head, and the entrance to Middle Harbour on daily trips to Manly. Of the many guided tours, a **Captain Cook**

Coffee Cruise is an efficient way of getting acquainted with the harbor (61-2-251-5007; \$18). Prearranged **water taxis** pick up passengers from most wharves (Taxis Afloat, 61-2-922-4252).

On land, **Sydney Explorer** red buses cover 20 landmark stops on a 12.5-mile circuit, with passengers boarding and leaving as they wish (\$14 a day per person). For guides and tailor-made programs, try **Maureen Fry Guided Tours** (61-2-660-7157). For tourist information, contact the **New South Wales Tourism Commission** in Los Angeles (310-552-9566).

LODGINGS

In the rosy **Regent of Sydney**, deluxe corner rooms with numbers ending in 10, 17, or 22 overlook the bustling quayside (61-2-238-0000; doubles from \$189). On

Macquarie Street, Sydney's finest boulevard, the one-bedroom suites on floors 28, 29, and 30 at the **Hotel Inter-Continental** show the harbor and the Royal Botanic Gardens in panorama (61-2-230-0200; \$120). All the rooms at the low-rise **Park Hyatt Sydney** have views, either of the Opera House or the harbor (61-2-241-1234; doubles from \$290). Corner rooms with numbers ending in 09 or 10 at the **Sebel Town House Hotel** in Kings Cross have a leafy, residential perspective of harbor life (61-2-358-3244; doubles from \$125). The pricey digs in the **Ritz-Carlton** are on the third and fourth floors, but floors seven through ten have harbor views (61-2-252-4600; doubles from \$145).

Less expensive quarters with harbor views include those at the **Sydney Boulevard Hotel**, where all rooms on floors 12 through 24 look across to the Heads (61-2-33-2237; doubles from \$90). The harbor is also visible from the rooms in the **North**

doubles from \$85).

DINING

Sydney's best restaurant is a 90-minute drive from town. The **Berowra Waters Inn** expertly adapts French-inspired food to Australian ingredients (61-2-456-1027; prix fixe, \$65).

City-bound diners must choose their bliss: sights or tastes. For daring menus, try the **Oasis Seros** (495 Oxford St., Paddington; 61-2-361-3377; three-course prix fixe, \$40) or **Trianon** (29 Challis Ave., Potts Point; 61-2-358-1353; entrées from \$18). The finest Chinese restaurant is the **Imperial Peking Harbour-side**, but the name doesn't guarantee a view: Windows are scarce in this former warehouse (15 Circular Quay West, The Rocks; 61-2-223-1128; entrées from \$8.50).

If it's your eyes that you want to feast, stay in the city center. The **Wharf Restaurant** has a glorious view on three sides and theatrical flair to boot: Actors from the Sydney Theatre Company oft perform here. 100 Pitt St., 11 a.m.-11 p.m. www.wharf.com.au



Orange County Register

September 12, 1993

Even novices may enjoy a reef-life adventure



DOWN UNDER: Cairns diving companies annually teach some 12,000 newcomers to the sport how to take part in a Great Barrier Reef excursion.

Australian Tourist Commission

ADVENTURE: Think Australia's Great Barrier Reef is a bit too deep to explore? Not for the thousands of first-timers who dive there each year.

By **MICHAEL PERRY**
Reuters

Sparkling silver bubbles rise silently from the ocean floor, engulfing your body as they make their way to the surface.

As you hang suspended in a mute world of light and color, more scuba divers glide along the floor of Australia's Great Barrier Reef 66 feet below.

The divemaster scribbles a message on an underwater notebook: "Simply kick and breathe."

Easy for him to say; 10 minutes ago you were safe on deck breathing like a normal human being, and now you're 16 feet underwater on your first dive, with a curious yellow-and-black striped batfish staring you in the face.

But as you descend slowly your body relaxes, the increasing pressure forcing your chest to take deeper gulps of air from your scuba tank.

Soon you forget you're an alien in a Jules Verne world without gravity or air and simply wonder as green parrotfish munch on rainbow coral, tiny white-tailed clownfish dart between an anemone's poisonous tentacles and fluorescent red, yellow and purple coral perform hypnotic dances.

Diving, once the domain of the burly thrill seeker, is now one of the fastest-growing tourist attractions on Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

While professional divers have known about the wonders of the reef for decades, first-time divers are now taking the plunge in increasing numbers, bringing with them valuable tourist dollars.

Down Under Dive, the largest dive school in the Queensland tourist city of Cairns, teaches 4,000-5,000 novices to dive each year.

Orange County Register

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Some 12,000 people now take their first plunge with Cairns dive operators each year.

"In the past three years we have nearly doubled in size. From lessons twice a week, we now teach seven days a week," says Down Under Dive marketing manager Mary Damsma.

"The growth is speeding it towards the top sport here."

Dive Australia, the industry's umbrella organization, says 60,000 people learn to dive each year in Australia, and the industry is worth an estimated \$235 million annually.

"The growth is really hard to quantify because we are such a young industry we have very few statistics. But the growth has been phenomenal; everybody is just trying to keep pace with the demand," Dive Australia's Jackie Morris says.

The Great Barrier Reef, stretching 1,530 miles along the country's northeast coast, is the largest coral reef system in the world and home to more than 2,000 fish species and more than 120 different types of corals.

It is the world's biggest ecotourist attraction.

From the moon, the reef looks like a white line on a blue-green background; from a seaplane it is a labyrinth of coral reefs, while beneath the surface it is a dazzling kaleidoscope of living color.

Each year an estimated 2 million tourists make the pilgrimage to the reef, a maze of 2,600 individual reefs and islets, to simply marvel at a natural phenomenon that has taken 10,000 years to evolve and is still growing.

Most dash out to the reef in high-powered catamarans and anchor alongside shaded, space-stationlike pontoons for the day. For those who wish to keep their toes dry, there are semi-submersible vessels.

To see the full show, such as fish kissing and shark wrestling, visitors must leave their inhibi-

The Great Barrier Reef, stretching 1,530 miles along the Australia's northeast coast, is the largest coral reef system in the world and home to more than 2,000 fish species and more than 120 different types of corals. It is the world's biggest ecotourist attraction.

tions behind and descend into the realm of the scuba diver.

"This is my back yard," says diver and underwater photographer Peter Mooney onboard the

catamaran ReefTrek anchored on Norman Reef, about 40 miles offshore from Cairns. "It's another world down there. I can show you things you've never

seen. I know every inch of this place."

"I can take you there tomorrow," says Mooney proudly, as he points to a video of a diver playfully wrestling white-tip sharks. "It took me six months to train these guys. It's a fine line between altering their behaviour and their food habits."

ReefTrek, a 48-berth luxury catamaran boasting a dining room, bar, spa and a lounge bristling with hi-tech video editing facilities to capture your first dive on film, is licensed to anchor



permanently on the outer reef. Passengers on board are from as far away as Germany, Ireland and Japan. The closest most have come to underwater diving is slipping in the bath.

But for the next three days and two nights they will live and breathe diving, and hopefully, all will return to shore certified divers.

"It's as easy as falling asleep," says ReefTrek dive-master Mathew Dowe, a former Australian Federal Police intelligence officer who decided to travel around the world but only got as far as the reef.

"Forget the B-grade movies of musclemen fighting giant octopus and clams. I have taught 2,500 people to dive and all have survived," laughs Dowe, whose comic nature invariably leads to an underwater encounter with Wally, the ship's resident 150-pound green Napoleon Wrasse.

Wally is a friendly beast who loves to be hand-fed boiled eggs and to kiss Dowe on the lips or share his breathing regulator to blow bubbles.

But despite the comic antics, these underwater "Reef Rats" are serious about their job, which they describe as environmental education.

"We are professional educators," Mooney says. "The real buzz is not taking the professional down there, but the novice — and watching the grin when they surface."

"In an educational environment people's minds open. This is the most wonderful place in the world, and it will only stay that way if we educate people to understand it."

Orange County Register

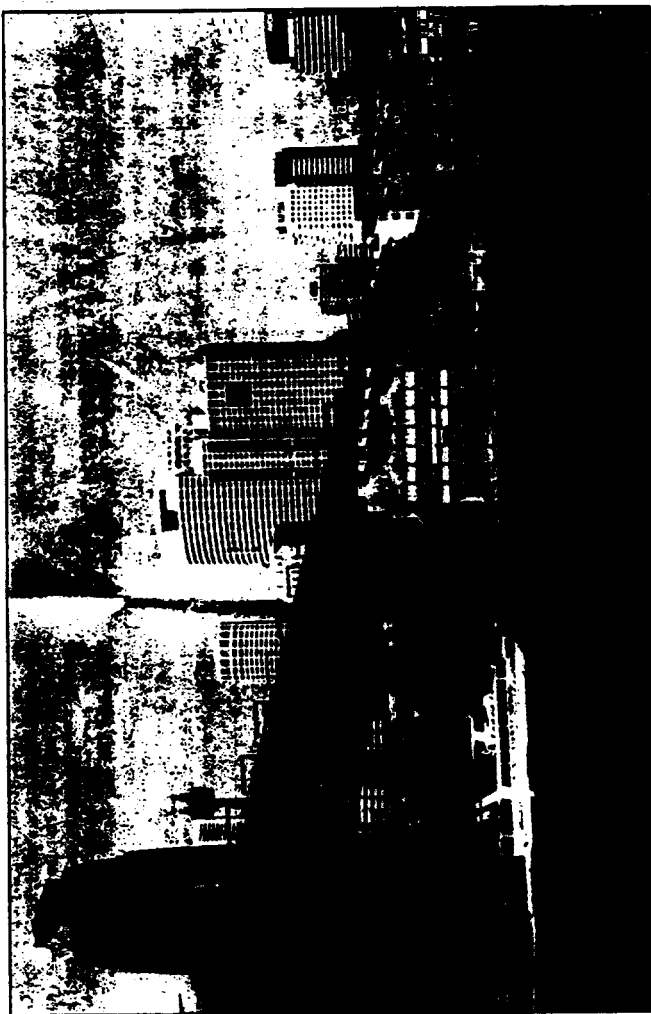
September 12, 1993

The towering white sails of the Sydney Opera House make it an instantly recognizable symbol of the city

DISTINCTIVE DOWN UNDER

**PLENTY OF
KANGAROOS AND A
LOT MORE TO KEEP
VISITORS HOPPING
IN AND AROUND
SYDNEY**

Press Enterprise
September 26, 1993



Don McQuillan / The Press-Enterprise
The skyline of Sydney forms a backdrop for the Sydney Harbor Bridge.

SYDNEY, Australia

'R

oos. Mobs of them. Kangaroos were grazing along the far side of the meadow, hopping through the late-afternoon shadows now that the sun had eased.

We'd been riding horseback for nearly two hours through Australia's Blue Mountains, along ridges that gave non-stop views of sprawling, empty ranges, and through eucalyptus groves that turned magical when parrots came flapping through the trees.

And it was all a short drive from Sydney, where I was midway through a seven-day tour personally conducted by an old Aussie friend who was born and raised there.

I knew from the first day that I was in for a, well . . . distinctive, visit. My friend Brian Vinson is the kind of guy, after all, who could actually sing the entire theme song of "Skippy the Bush Kangaroo." And who made sure I knew right off that nobody in Australia would actually drink Fosters beer.

Sydney visitors could easily spend a week riding in the Blue Mountains, or meandering down the Hawkesbury River, or checking out dozens of other sights and getaway spots that entertain a city of 5 million. But if you're planning a trip without your own Australian friends at hand, here are Vinson's tips on the best his city has to offer:

In Sydney

We started exploring at The Rocks, the old waterfront section of Sydney, with cobbled alleys, trendy shops full of great art, crafts and jewelry — and touristy shops full of enough plush wombats and koalas to strain even the highest cuteness-tolerance levels.

The Rocks makes a good, low-key introduction to Sydney, perfect for getting over jet lag and reading a few historical plaques. From the Rocks, you can walk to the ferry terminal for your first stunning views of Sydney's Opera House. For lunch with a view, try Liza Blue's, right in the terminal. Vinson pronounced its garlic damper, an outback campfire bread, "not proper damper — but good."

From the ferry terminal it's an easy walk along the waterfront to the Sydney Opera House. You can take a tour or buy tickets to see (and hear) the place the way it should be seen, from a seat in the concert hall. It's often — but not always — possible to get tickets for that night's performance. We

The Three Sisters pinnacles are among the sights in the Blue Mountains.

►**Olympics:** Last week's selection of Sydney as the site for the 2000 Summer Olympics is certain to spur interest in travel to Australia. For more information, contact the Australian Tourist Commission, 2121 Avenue of the Stars No. 1200, Los Angeles 90025-1760; (310) 552-1988.

Press Enterprise

September 26, 1993

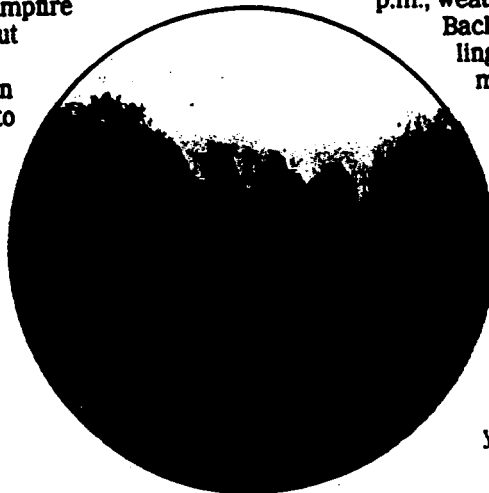
lucked into a performance by Australian jazz trumpeter James Morrison and his band.

Sydney is built around a huge harbor, and it begs to be seen by water. You can hop on ferries to nearby beaches or book a harbor cruise on one of the motorized boats that take you all the way to the mouth of the sea, but Vinson suggested we forget about motors, relax, and take a tall ship. We boarded the Solway Lass, built in 1902, at Darling Harbor and had a wonderfully tranquil sail around Sydney's shores. The crew members let us clamber out on netting and take turns at steering the ship, and they pointed out plenty of city highlights. The ship leaves daily at noon and 2 p.m., weather permitting.

Back ashore, you can explore Darling Harbor, a pretty harborside mall junked up with souvenir stores. It's redeemed a bit by its water views and a food hall that sells great variations on the ubiquitous Aussie snack — pies. Not the sweet kind, but hand-held snacks filled with combinations of meat, cheese, eggs or even fish.

A word on Sydney food: It's easy to find disappointing, overpriced versions of just about any cuisine imaginable. If you like eating out, stop at a book-

G Please see AUSTRALIA, F-2



store on your first day in town to buy the Sydney Restaurant Survey '93, published by Horan, Wall and Walker. At \$9.95 Australian, it can pay for itself easily on the first meal. It steered us to several great spots, including Bai Yok Thai Restaurant at 330 Pacific Highway — part of a real ethnic restaurant row in the Crow's Nest area of Sydney.

Darling Harbor also is a monorail stop, and it's a good place to get aboard for an elevated spin around Sydney. You can ride right around the short central city loop and get off again, which takes about 10 or 15 minutes, or just go as far as the Sydney Tower, which looms 1,000 feet over downtown. The tower itself is as touristy — and as much fun — as towers in Seattle or Toronto. Great views, good explanations of what you're seeing, and overrated food if a restaurant is involved. One saving grace in Sydney's tower is that you can skip the exclusive restaurant and hang out in the revolving coffee lounge (Aussie for coffee shop) just below it, getting the same great view.

The tower can whet your appetite for more rambling. From it, you can see the string of three parks that make a beautiful walk through the core of the city, starting from Hyde Park and continuing through the Domain to the Royal Botanic Gardens on the

Out and around

When 5 million Australians crammed into one city get to be a bit too intense, there are plenty of options for getting out of Sydney and seeing a bit of what Brian calls "the bush."

My favorite spot was the Blue Mountains, an easy two-hour drive west from Sydney. You can arrange a weeklong horse pack trip there, take dozens of hikes in and around the national park, or just drive up for the day and hop on the Scenic Railway, a heart-stopping funicular that plunges from a canyon edge down into a near-rain forest, complete with towering ferns and bright red and green parrots.

A good place to start is at the Blue Mountains visitors center, where you can gape at parrots and pick up fistfuls of brochures on the region. The visitors center is worth a stop just for its bird feeders, where we counted five separate parrot species munching away.

Hikers can take several trails that start near the center, which is perched on a cliff edge overlooking a sweeping valley and the Three Sisters pinnacles. The less ambitious can drive around the canyon rim to the railway and its neighboring monorail for a view of Katoomba Falls. Further on are

to make my mandatory koala-petting stop at the nearby Waratah Park, the badly aging home of Skippy the Bush Kangaroo, once the star of an Australian TV series that sounds a bit like Lassie, with a bounce.

The Waratah is one of several wildlife parks around Sydney where tourists can pet kangaroos, see wombats and Tasmanian devils, nuzzle koalas and generally be reminded that lots of critters live here that you can't see anywhere else. Unfortunately, the Waratah is still living on Skippy's fame, and Vinson and I both suggest you skip right past it and go instead to the Castle Hill Koala Sanctuary.

Before leaving Sydney, try to take a make final outing to the string of beautiful bays and coves collectively called the Northern Beaches. We drove to the most remote of the still-suburban beaches, Pittwater, and slowly wound our way back. You could spend

hours enjoying any one of the beaches, but Pittwater is special because from a narrow peninsula, probably no more than 50 feet across, you can visit either a long, empty beach with pounding surf or a quiet lagoon where water laps at a wharfside diner and a line of sailboats floats beside the pier.

Continuing back south toward Sydney, you can stop at Palm