

Now is time for 2d helping of O&E's Hawaii tour

The response to the lure of a trip to the Hawaiian Islands has been so great, that the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers is planning a second trip there.

The Nov. 10 to Dec. 1 sojourn already is filled, but now there is another chance to wing to the land of

pineapple and poi.

The dates of the tour are Nov. 30 through Dec. 15, just at a time when winter's blasts are beginning to be felt. Cost is \$899.

Included in the tour are five nights at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel on Oahu's Waikiki Beach followed by

three nights in the Coco Palms Resort Hotel on Kauai. From there, the tour finds its way to the Royal Lahaina Hotel on the island of Maui for three nights.

The vacation winds up with three nights at the Kona Hotel.

Travelers will find standards of the

trip include sights of outriggers, waterfalls, sailboats, mountains, valleys, sunsets, swimming pools and golf courses.

Round-trip air transportation from Detroit will be provided by United Airlines. A 747 or DC-10 will whisk you to an orchid lei greeting. Island trips

will be via jets of the Oloha Airlines or Hawaiian Air.

Deluxe coach transfers between airports and hotels is covered by the round-trip price, which also takes care of luggage handling, taxes, tips and service charges.

The \$899 price is for double occupancy—add \$260 for single occupancy.

You may join the tour by sending a deposit of \$25 to the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 38251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Space is limited.

For more information about the trip, call 591-2300, ext. 244.

TRAVEL LOG of Iris Jones



NPS brings the green to you

Between planes — Do the words national park conjure up pictures of great green parklands manned by park rangers and dotted with campfires?

Perhaps it does, but it doesn't go far enough towards recognizing what the National Park Service is doing to provide travelers unusual experiences in the wilderness.

Dick Bey of Farmington Hills made this discovery when he and the family came upon the Montana National Bison Range, 28 miles north of Missoula, Mont.

Bey describes the trek as similar to that experienced by travelers to Africa's game parks, where you can drive through acreage where the sleeping lions lie.

The Bays made their way through herds of bighorn sheep and elk, and of course bison.

If you would like to explore one of the new and different national parks, you will find one close to home—outside of Cleveland. The National Park Service recently added the Cuyahoga Valley to its chain of urban parks, creating a green strip that park Supt. William G. Birdsell believes will "someday be at the heart of the city of Greater Cleveland-Akron (Ohio)."

Whether or not Cleveland and Akron combine into a megalopolis of the future, the Cuyahoga National Recreation Area fulfills the federal government's commitment to keep a little wilderness for city folks and campers.

Two other urban parks already have been opened, the Gateway National Recreation Area near New York City and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area near San Francisco.

Urban parks charge no admission fees and offer practically no facilities, by public request.

The 22-mile park along the historic Cuyahoga River will not include campgrounds, organized sports, amusement center or any other facilities which could be provided by private enterprise nearby. It will be 30,000 acres of open space, where strollers, hikers, bird-watchers and history lovers can explore the route of the old Ohio Canal.

A regularly scheduled steam train runs through the park on weekends from Cleveland to Akron with a stop at the restored 19th Century Hale Farm and Village, restored as living history by the Western Reserve Historical Society.

The Blossom Center, summer home to the Cleveland Orchestra, seats 15,000 people at open-air concerts held in the park.

The only civilized area is the town of Peninsula, which has been exempted from the park rule against commercial establishments.

Antique railway cars on the Cuyahoga Valley Line, run by the non-profit Cuyahoga Valley Preservation and Scenic Railway Association, leave Cleveland at 11 a.m. Saturdays-Sundays, through Nov. 4.

It runs a restored Engine No. 4070, a 1918 model believed to be extinct except for this one.

Transportation alternatives include busing one mile from the train to Hale Farm, which has an operating animal farm, sawmill, craft shops, restored houses and church; continuing to Akron and returning to Cleveland on the train (which arrives at 5 p.m.); or drive into the park.

For more information, write to a cheerful railway buff with a German accent called Siegfried Baerling, vice-president of operations for the railway, at Box 256, Bath, Ohio 44210. The railway office is Box 49, Peninsula, Ohio. (Tickets are \$8 adults and \$5 for children round-trip.) For information on the park, contact the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area at Box 158, Peninsula, Ohio 44261.

A TOLL-FREE number for travel information is a useful thing for you to put in your telephone book, and I have one for you from the U.S.A. Travel Information Center, but...

The but is that the government has not renewed the funding, so access to 1-800-323-1608 ends Sept. 30—unless you start screaming to your congressmen.

The U.S. Travel Service was established about 18 years ago to encourage foreign travel to the U.S. It expanded about five years ago to provide domestic information on travel to Americans. The information center began offering the toll-free number to people in the travel trade about 1½ years ago, and expanded it after eight months to make it available to the travel consumer.

Rand McNally, which operates the toll-free service under contract, fielded 2,500-3,500 consumer calls a month from all over the U.S., Hawaii and Alaska. The budget for the foreign service was renewed but the budget for the domestic service was not even heard. A call or letter to your congressman could get the service restored.

The Empress still is queen of the high teas

By IRIS SANDERSON JONES

Should a movie camera focus on this scene, it would show tourists in T-shirts and shorts swarming across Government Street into the lobby of a the Empress Hotel.

Moving back the camera somewhat, the hotel can be seen to dominate the island city, the capital of Canada's westernmost province.

Still further back, the scene is surrounded by a moving sea dotted with humped, treed islands. One could say it's only an hotel, but the Empress is a legend, the historical and social center of a city, part of the history of Canada and the dowager queen of hotels of the west.

For travelers, it is an experience not found anywhere else in North America.

THE EMPRESS was conceived by an entrepreneur and a sea captain when 25,000 people lived on the tip of Vancouver Island at the century's turn.

There, they wanted a stupendous hotel and also to start a ferry service that would bring guests from the mainland 20 miles away. It was crazy, but the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. bought the idea. It was one of many chateau-type hotels built by the company across Canada in those early days.

It was built to dominate the inner harbor, with parliament buildings winging out on one side and the old town on the other. Over the years, it has hosted presidents and kings; been the scene for receptions for Roosevelt and the Prince of Wales, served the King and Queen of England and hosted the King and Queen of Siam.

And every day, rain or shine, it

served high tea. Affluent guests came for the winter, and lots of rich little old ladies lived there year-round.

When the Depression hit Wall Street, several of the ladies who frequented the Empress were known to take their own tea into the lobby and ask for hot water.

The Empress had seen everything when the company talked about eliminating her in the 1950s. But the locals screamed: "Don't you dare knock down our Empress."

The premier of British Columbia nearly had a fit. Faced with a choice between revolution and renovation, CP Hotels launched Operation Teacup, a \$5 million renovation. To soothe the indignant locals, the hotel continued to serve high tea in the lobby even while the hotel was being refurbished.

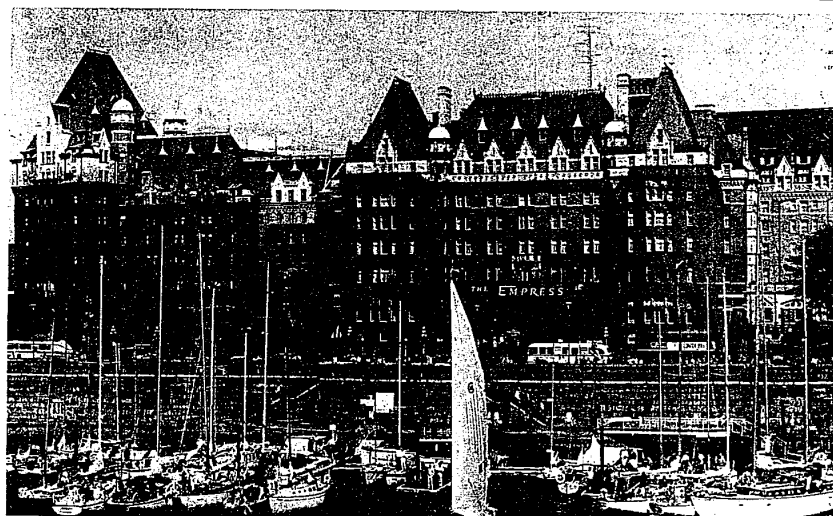
Now, the rooms are fitted with proper heating and plumbing facilities. The hotel is busy and you can barely get in the door between 2 and 5 p.m. when the tour boats are in.

Blue-jeaned humanity with toes poking out of sandals stand in line under the high, carved ceilings and wait for a table and tea.

In the past, guests dressed at least as well as the waitresses in their black dresses and white aprons. They wore outfits to match the silver trays and the silver tea pots, which in turn were served at tables between potted palms.

Some residents won't come for tea during the tourist season because they can't stand to see the grand old lady so commercialized. But the old place is alive. And, yes, there even is a disco in the basement.

THE OLDE ENGLISHE hotel may be as much of a myth as is its little English town of Victoria. Both were



Tourists find the majestic Empress irresistible. High tea usually is the order of the day there.

built by colonials recreating their stylized memories of home.

The city has been teased for years about the flower pots hanging from the lamp posts and little signs of 19th Century England which dot the landscape.

A Vancouver cartoonist loves to portray elderly gentlemen with walrus mustaches hiding behind the potted palms in the lobby of the Empress, and studying streetwise parking meters that read naughty instead of violation.

The city deserves its reputation as one of the flower capitals of the continent, and often surprises tourists by showing flowers in full bloom in

December. The West Coast weather is gently warmed by the Japanese current.

The most prominent gardens are the Buchart gardens built in the remains of a gravel pit, but flowers bloom in gardens all over the city.

Tourists approach the city by sea now, exactly as they did when the Empress was built 70 years ago. The ferry plows through the straits between Vancouver Island and the mainland on 1½-hour runs, with islands green against every horizon.

Ferries run from Seattle during the summer, and year-round from Vancouver. There are runs to the island

city of Nanaimo, where you can bus south through the mountains to Victoria.

Victoria is a city to be enjoyed on the most interesting sights are outside the front door of the Empress along the inland harbor. At night, people play guitars and paint along the embankment, boats tie up to the marina and strollers watch ocean-going ships sail past to the open sea.

There are so many retirees there that some people call it Wrinkle City, but the faces which dominate the afternoon tea tables at the Empress are young.

They sit at round tables on high-

backed studded chairs, and order the \$3.50 high tea delivered on an old silver tray. There are tiny tea sandwiches, toasted English muffins, crumpets in butter and honey, cake, buttered bread and unlimited amounts of specially blended tea in a silver teapot, waiting for its content to be delicately in china cups.

In the conservatory, Devonshire tea, fresh scones, Devon cream and berries topped with sugar is served.

If you prize convention, you may think the Empress has lost some of her class. But like queens everywhere, she has adapted her countenance to the times.

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Hawaiian Tour

The Observer & Eccentric Hawaiian Tour departs November 16, 1978 and Returns December 1, 1978 Cost per person is \$899 (based on double occupancy) You may join the tour by sending a \$25.00 deposit to secure your place on our program. Space is limited, so get your deposit in early. For further information call our travel desk and we will send you a color brochure.

Call our Travel Desk at 591-2300, Extension-244

This tour is conducted in cooperation with Hamilton, Miller, Hudson & Payne Travel Corporation of Southfield.

