

TRAVEL LOG

of Iris Jones



Mint juleps amid the flowering azaleas, anybody?

We northerners are marching through Georgia again, as we every spring in our urgent quest for summer. Here are some travel options to consider on your way down Interstate 75 to Florida.

Atlanta's blooming with dogwood, azaleas and other spring flowers. They're clipping and pruning for the mid-May rose festival in Thomasville. The 355-mile stretch of I-75 runs from Rock City in the northwest corner of the state to Valdosta in the south. There are two national military parks, Chickamauga-Chatahoochee, near Rock City, where you will find one of the largest military gun collections in the world.

The Goudland Canyon State Park is also off I-75 on the northern leg at Rising Fawn. Three other state parks are adjacent to the highway: Red Top Mountain in Cartersville, Indian Springs in Indian Springs and High Falls in Jackson.

Of course Atlanta is a special stop, with too many attractions to mention here if you happen to be on the road. On Easter weekend, you might like to participate in the Easter Sunrise Service, the Easter Egg Hunt and the Carillon Concerts at Stone Mountain, south of Atlanta.

Just south of Macon, where I-75 turns south and I-16 breaks east for Savannah, you are approaching the turnoff into Plains country and the Andersonville Trail. (See story.) This is a tourist gold mine for families, because of its variety.

You can see President Jimmy Carter's hometown, and a lot of the hometown folks. The trail winds through the Camellia Gardens at Marshallville, the free Flint River ferry (hunk your horn for service), and Andersonville National Historic Site and the village of Andersonville.

A few miles south of the point where you re-enter I-75, you will see signs for the town of Titon, where 30 authentic farm village structures have been restored in a State Historic Site called the Georgia Agrirama.

The list of things to see and do along the whole length of I-75 from Detroit to Florida would fill this whole newspaper page. Most of them are well-known; the museum of old planes at Dayton, the food wonders of Cincinnati, the old ho, se farms and the new Kentucky State Horse Park at Lexington.

But most of us damn yankees are so eager to get to the summer sun that we don't allow ourselves to take our eyes off the road until we get to Georgia.

That's when we really believe that summer's coming home. And if you'd like to see the wonder of summer in all its glory, take a homebound detour to Pine Mountain on Highway 27, where a nature lover called Cason Callaway left all the wonders of the natural world behind for you.

Callaway Gardens is a non-profit foundation which offers greenhouses and natural woodland gardens as well as a contemporary-if-woody motel with golf course, lake and a tiny chapel.

By mid-April, the 600 varieties of azaleas will be blooming, the mountain laurel and rhododendron are in season and the Easter lilies and hydrangea are on display in the greenhouses.

A variety of garden and craft workshops will be in full swing and the gardens will be getting ready for the May magnolias that every northerner recognizes as the absolutely irrefutable symbol of spring.

FROM THE MAILBAG: World Wide Villa Vacations offers an interesting travel package to Portugal. You can buy a package that includes round-trip air fare from either Toronto or Montreal, seven to 15 nights in a villa or apartment, a car and a guide.

Prices start from \$512 per person for a party of four sharing a three-bedroom villa.

You can also take a Canadian apartment vacation through World Wide Villa Vacations and Air Canada, which will send you a brochure about apartments available throughout Canada. Contact Air Canada or your travel agent or write to World Wide Villa Vacations at 175 Bloor Street East, Toronto, Ontario M4W 1C8.

THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS Board is looking at an American Airlines proposal which, if passed, will mean a two-for-one fare from April 18 to June 16 on all American Airline routes in the continental U.S.

The first passenger will pay full first class or day coach fare and the second passenger will fly free. The fare requires that you stay overnight somewhere on a Saturday night, and limit your trip to five days. Children 2 through 17 will fly at 50 percent off.

All two-for-one fares will be on round-trip bookings only.

"PACIFIC NORTHWEST ADVENTURE" will be the final program of this year's World Adventure Series, which has highlighted Sunday afternoons at the Detroit Institute of Arts for 45 years.

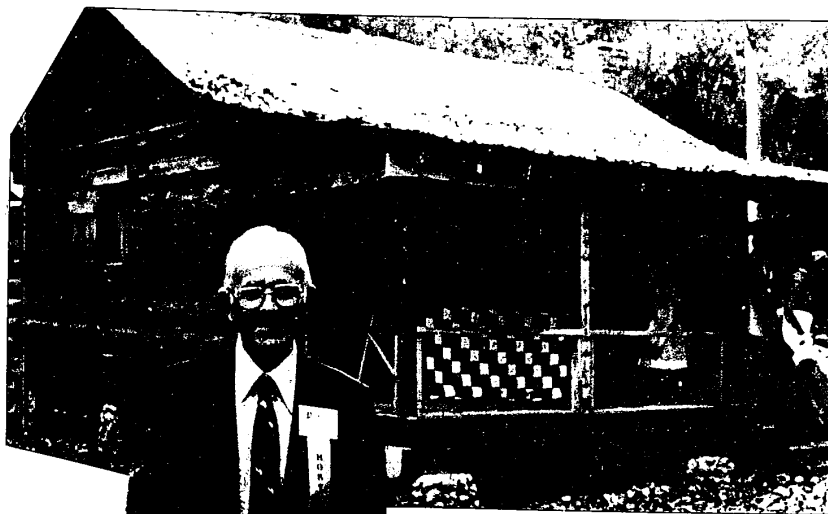
During all those years, when this Detroit program was used as a model for travel programs nationwide, fans have been greeted by the familiar rotund shape of George Pierrot. George and his wife Helen greeted Lowell Thomas at the series a week or two ago.

After all these years, you will still see them laughing at camera clown Don Cooper, who brings down the house every year with his screen antics and scenic films of the northwest.

The program will be at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 18, at the DIA, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

ARE YOU SATISFIED with regular television programs in your hotel room or do you expect more? According to the Princess Anne Inn in Virginia Beach, Virginia, hotel guests are no longer satisfied with regular television.

They want first-run movies on closed-circuit even if they must pay for them.



Andersonville Mayor Lewis Esterlin greets visitors outside restored cabin in Pioneer Park.

Village rebuilds Confederate past

Story and photos by IRIS SANDERSON JONES

ANDERSONVILLE, Ga. — Travelers driving the Easter trail down Interstate 75 to Florida can detour briefly along a stretch of road that has a famous name on one of its signboards: Andersonville.

On one side of Highway 49, 13,000 white grave markers cover the Georgia fields where Union forces were imprisoned during the Civil War. This is the Andersonville National Historic Site, the prison site and cemetery, all diligently maintained and open to tourists.

Across the highway is the village of Andersonville, where history is also carefully kept but in a different way. Here, a feisty mayor and 300 townfolk are laboriously returning their village to the 19th century with the work of their own hands.

Mayor Lewis Esterlin calls it "a giant step backwards" and adds, "that's not too hard because nothin' much has changed around here in a hundred years anyhow."

Andersonville, which is along the Andersonville Trail 10 miles from Oglethorpe and 19 miles from Plains is reached by turning off I-75 at Perry along Highway 127 and then south down Highway 49.

A FEW YEARS AGO, you couldn't get so much as a cup of coffee in Andersonville, but a group of local people changed all that by forming the Andersonville Guild in 1973. Their goal was to restore the village to its Civil War days, when Union prisoners were deliv-

ered by rail to this town and then imprisoned in the stockade across the road.

Frankly, Andersonville was just another dilapidated little town with a lot of unpleasant memories until the guild decided to build the town a future by rebuilding its past.

Esterlin has been mayor for 25 years. "I left town only once, during the Depression, and I nearly starved to death." In 1973, he and his friends paid \$50 for a 19th century railway station, hauled it 60 miles and restored it.

"Depots are hard to get. The thing was just about fell down when we got it," Esterlin said.

They rebuilt it and now the Welcome Center and museum as well as the town council's office occupy the space.

With their volunteered labor they created Pioneer Park, a five-acre picnic site and restored farm village with a blacksmith shop, cane mill, corn crib, smokehouse, guardhouse, bridge, grist mill and "a whiskey mill that doesn't give out samples."

The park is free. It has animals, including the town's favorite mule, and crops Esterlin restored an antique shop and a country store with a dining room, both buildings 100 years old.

The guild restored the town hall, rebuilt an abandoned log cabin church, added a rustic bandstand to the main street and built old brick sidewalks all over town. A few blocks out of town, two 19th century homes were restored by the Catewood family.

The result of all this industriousness for tourists is a well-restored century-old village built by the 300 people who

live there still and who welcome you with traditional Southern hospitality into the small-town life of rural Georgia.

Where else can they still make hot mashed potato salad?

ACROSS THE HIGHWAY, at the Andersonville Prison Site and National Cemetery, travelers take a different kind of journey through 500 acres of history restored and kept with painful honesty.

On the 25 acres, once surrounded by a 15-foot-high stockade fence, 45,000 Union soldiers were imprisoned and 13,000 of them died. For 14 months, from February 1864 to April 1865, they lived without housing, sanitary facilities or adequate food.

What you can see now from the tour road are markers showing where the fence once stood and the Deadline, 19 feet inside those markers. Any prisoner who crossed the Deadline was shot.

You can see the huge holes where prisoners dug desperately for water, the stream that was and which became a sewer and the spring that flowed one day like a miracle.

At the Information Center, you can find the names of Michigan soldiers who were imprisoned there.

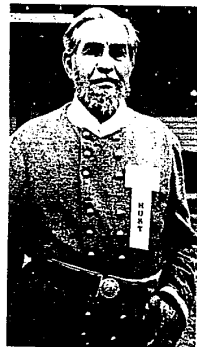
At the nearby cemetery, with massive memorials from 15 northern states, you can find some of their names on the white markers carefully now kept over their graves.

This detour off I-75 to the Andersonville Trail can take you to other places: Americus, Plains, the National Headquarters of the American Camella

Society, a 19th century river ferry.

But for a look at human life, at its best and worst, it's hard to surpass a trip down Highway 49 to the place with the infamous name.

The prison site will make you lose a little faith in the human race, but Lewis Esterlin and the people of Andersonville will restore your loss in a hurry.



Robert Gibson portrays Gen. Robert E. Lee, the host.

Kabuki, jazz, flamenco highlight Flint

Professor Shozo Sato, from the University of Illinois, Urbana, will lecture on Kabuki Theater in the Flint Institute of Arts Tuesday, April 10.

Kabuki combines dance, music and mime, and has been an entertainment form in Japan since the 16th century. A complete performance in English on videotape will be shown before and after the lecture. For information, call 1-313-234-1895.

Other attractions in Flint include Maynard Ferguson and his orchestra on stage at Whiting Auditorium at 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 11.

Carlos Montoya, flamenco guitarist, will be in recital at the University of Michigan-Flint 8 p.m. Friday, April 20.

SING TO THE MUSIC.
 DINE TO THE MUSIC.
 PLAY TO THE MUSIC.
 SHOP TO THE MUSIC.
 TALK TO THE MUSIC.
 DRIVE TO THE MUSIC.
 WALK TO THE MUSIC.
 WORK TO THE MUSIC.
 RELAX TO THE MUSIC.
 LISTEN TO THE MUSIC.
 DANCE TO THE MUSIC.
 WHISTLE TO THE MUSIC.

ON

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WHERE THE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC IS!



'Just when you thought. . .'

A lemon shark glides through the waters of Sea World's Shark Institute in Lorton, Florida, in the Keys. Opened in December 1978 on 6 1/2 acres of land, it serves as a shark research center for institute and independent marine scientists. There are major exhibit facilities, which include two shark displays, a 10,000-gallon coral reef aquarium and a re-creation of a Caribbean tidepool. Hours are 9 a.m. to dusk daily and admission is \$3.50 for adults and \$2.25 for children 4-12. The center is about 90 minutes south of Miami, between Homestead and Key West. The lemon shark, by the way, is one of the most aggressive of the 300 known species of sharks, is between nine-11 feet long at maturity, and got its name because of its yellowish underbelly.