

By Iris Sanderson Jones
contributing travel editor

Q: Can you help two couples who want desperately to vacation in Europe? We all backpacked through Western Europe at some time, but now we want to do it comfortably. Not luxury class. Not on a bus tour. On our own. But the more we hear about the cost of traveling in Europe, the farther away it seems!

A: There is a whole world of European travel out there between backpacking and luxury hotels. A \$200-a-night room in a London hotel would scare most of us, but there are ways to avoid both the high expense-account travel done by business travelers and the regimentation of tour buses.

Since you have all done a once-over of the continent already, choose an area and a travel style that suits both your interests and your budget.

This week we'll talk about a trip to the Republic of Ireland, which you can use as a launching pad for England, Scotland or the continent. Next week, we'll look at Yugoslavia, by car or boat. That gives you an English-speaking destination and a more exotic one, two of many good choices for the cost-conscious individual travelers.

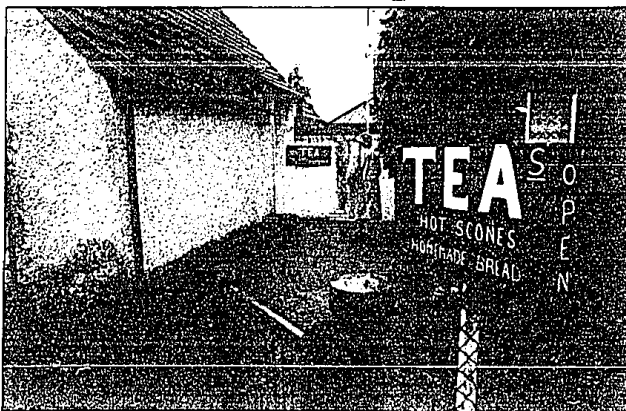
Four travel categories determine your budget — airfare, car rental, accommodations and the level at which you eat, drink and shop. Start watching the airline ads and call airlines like Pan Am, American, British Airways, Delta, TWA and Aer Lingus for low fares to Shannon, on the west coast of Ireland.

TRAVEL OFF-SEASON, preferably in the spring or fall. Check profit and non-profit tour groups that offer air-only fares. Call Canadian airlines, too. Cut air travel costs to the bone.

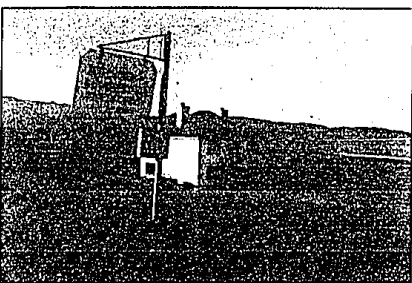
Contact the World Travel desk of the Automobile Club of Michigan for car rental rates and book ahead. Explore an air fare that includes car rental. If any of you have frequent flier points, they might apply to car rental. Some credit cards give you points toward air travel. Start now and check them all.

Ireland offers one of the most extensive and least expensive accommodation alternatives in Europe — bed and breakfast, country homes, farmhouses and townhouses. Ireland wants tourists, but they don't have enough big hotels, so the government gives private citizens grants to build guest ac-

'Oh how I want to go to Europe'



photos by MICKY JONES



Ireland offers one of the most extensive and least expensive accommodation alternatives in Europe — bed and breakfast like this one in Kilkenny. And afternoon tea at a countryside tea room can be a place to meet Irish people as well as other travelers and get a feeling for the country.

commodations.

The Irish Tourist Board rates them and sells guidebooks for \$2.3. One guide is overall, others focus on farm houses or castles, etc. You can get a fine, comfortable room for two people, including a good Irish breakfast, for \$25.

Money isn't the only incentive. This is a way to explore the city and village, to meet Irish people as well as other travelers, and get a feeling for the country over breakfast or dinner, or at pubs and restaurants recommended by your hosts.

At a farmhouse, called Farnatane House, in County Wexford, for example, our hosts were standing at the farmhouse door, hands outstretched in welcome, when we arrived. And they were standing there, waving goodbye, when we left. We felt like cousins saying goodbye to family, except we had only been there one night.

THE BIG STONE farmhouse goes back to 1798, the same date as the uprising on Vinegar Hill in nearby Enniscorthy. When I called from a public telephone booth at 5:30 p.m., I was told that it was too late to order dinner, but they would make us "a little tea." That turned out to be hot homemade soup, cold chicken and salad with bread, cake and tea or coffee, quite enough "dinner" for us.

We took the last cup into the lounge where their son Frank was watching an American football game on television. Just after 9 p.m. we joined Cy and Willy for more tea, cake and talk at the kitchen table.

I liked the story they told about the couple who went to a pub, got lost, didn't know the farm name or the family name, went to several other B&Bs in vain, slept in the car and got back to Farnatane House at 2 p.m. the next day.

That farmhouse offered very basic accommodation, a clean plain room on the second floor with a double bed and the bathroom down the hall. We stayed in many that were more luxurious and had bathrooms in the rooms, but none that offered better hospitality.

Diamond Hill, in Slieveue, a suburb of Waterford, was a large stucco house recommended by Susan Poole, author of Frommer's "Ireland on \$20 a Day." Hostess Mary Malone brought us a tray of tea and biscuits to wash the road away when we checked into a room with a queen-sized bed.

Bathrooms are usually "down the hall," but Diamond Hill, like many guest houses, offers rooms with bathrooms en suite for another \$5 or so per person.

er \$5 or so per person.

MANY PLACES, like Diamond Hill or Shangri-la, which overlooks Bantry Bay in County Cork, are private homes where the residents have added on a wing for guests, so you are not really in the family kitchen as we were at the Heffernans.

Some accommodations are in the heart of a town. We stayed on the top floor of the The Presbytery, a high narrow private home in a street of attached houses. It was once the presbytery of a nearby church. We walked easily to downtown Kinsale (County Cork) and swapped stories over breakfast with other travelers in the spacious breakfast room.

Each place has its own setting and attractions. From Diamond Hill, we toured the plant where Waterford crystal is made. From Bantry, we watched the clams being harvested in the bay and then drove the Ring of Beara, one of three peninsulas that stick out like fingers into the Atlantic. (Most bus tours do the Ring of Kerry.) We especially love the Dingle Peninsula, where Gaelic culture and language still reign.

Doyle's Seafood Bar in Dingle is popular, its second-story rooms are nice, but it's not in the tourist guide because it charges more than the government will accept for its guide book. We stayed in a contemporary house called Cleevan, just out of Dingle, for \$25.

In Kenmare, County Kerry, on the other hand, we gladly chose the unlisted Hawthorn House when we found it in the dark of night and were rewarded with a pot of tea beside a warm fire and the smells of a fine dinner. Dinner was expensive, about the same price as the room.

MANY IRISH B & Bs offer dinner, usually for about 10 pounds Irish per person. Sometimes you must reserve before noon to get it.

Each country offers its own style of personal accommodations. Northern Ireland — manor houses. Welsh farmhouses. Scottish castles. English bed and breakfast homes. In season, university dorms are an alternative.

Contact the Irish Tourist Board, 757 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017 or the British Tourist Authority, 40 West 57th St., New York, N.Y. 10019, for information.

If you have a travel question for Iris Sanderson Jones, send it to Street Scene at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

Angel Flight pairs pilots with patients

Continued from Page 1

Examples of a potential passenger are "one who cannot sit up for an extended time period or one whose immune system is so suppressed that entering an airport is inviting disaster."

"THERE HAS to be a medical need, but that's pretty broad. We rule out taking doctors to golf outings, but a person vacationing in Florida and has a medical problem qualifies."

Recent flights have included taking eyes from Pellston to Cadillac for the Michigan Eye Bank and taking an 18-year-old cancer patient to Johns Hopkins in Baltimore.

Largely because of costs, trips have been restricted to a 500-mile radius. Costs average \$30 to \$50 per hour. An average plane travels

100 to 125 miles per hour.

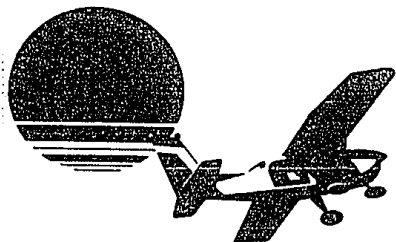
"If you're flying five hours, 10 hours round trip, that gets a little expensive. They're willing to pay for one or two trips a year. Beyond that, it gets expensive."

THE ORGANIZATION is looking for more pilots to defray the costs as well as financial angels to support the flying angels so that the service can be expanded.

"We ask the pilots to pick up the tab. If the trip were financed, they'd go (more often), anything for free flying."

"We're looking for new pilots and a lot of things at once. If we have the missions, we need pilots. And we need pilots with a lot of money. Actually all three at once."

The organization is trying to get the word out to those who could use it. Angel Flight is often asked, Quinn said, "Are they real pilots? They're not just practicing?"



Standard Federal's new account is creating a lot of interest.

7-Month Bonus Rate Certificate

10% annual interest for the first 31 days

8% annual interest for the remaining six months

\$500 Minimum Deposit

Substantial interest penalty for early withdrawal from certificate accounts

Standard Federal Bank
Savings/Financial Services
1-800/522-5900

Insured to \$100,000 by FDIC.

