

## TRAVEL

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IRIS SANDERSON JONES

## The play's the thing at Stratford Festival

The Stratford Festival opened officially last week in a flurry of black-tie events and premiere showings. I say "officially" because the plays have been performed daily since the season opened April 29.

That's when the swans were released from their winter quarters behind the arena, the ducks started dropping in on picnic dinners and the water birds began their daily parades across the roads.

By mid May the pedal boats were busy on the Avon River, spring flowers were blooming in the Shakespearean Gardens and the bed-and-breakfast places had their signs out for the summer.

I saw three of this summer's plays during the unofficial preview season: "Much Ado About Nothing" at the Festival Theater, "Our Town" and "Les Belles Soeurs" at the Avon Theater. I didn't get into the Tom Patterson Theater, named after the Stratford journalist largely responsible for launching this festival; the theater was formerly called Third Stage.

I PREDICT that "Les Belles Soeurs," written by Canadian playwright Michel Tremblay and performed for the first time in English, will be the main topic of conversation this summer. It is a funny, angry, loud, unusual play about a group of French-Canadian women who gathered to help paste into booklets the one million gold stamps won by a housewife.

People either love it or hate it, think it has too much swearing or is realistic, etc. Whether you like it or not, you should see it and join the conversation at the Festival this year.

That kind of information is available when you buy a theater ticket, but if you want other important Stratford information you must ask somebody who has been there and knows the bed and breakfasts, the restaurants, the best bookstore, etc.

I pick the brains of all my friends who travel and I would like to pick yours. If you have to Stratford, Ontario and have a small tip for our readers, read on.

## TRAVELER'S ROUND TABLE

Did you share a travel tip with a friend lately? Send it to us on a postcard that includes your name, address, phone number (only your name and area will be printed in the newspaper). We also publish Reader Reports about travel.

We do not pay for submissions and they will not be returned, but we will keep your name in our Round Table file for future mailings and selected submissions will be published. Send to Traveler's Round Table, 22000 Springbrook, Suite 206C, Farmington Hills, 48336.

## K'zoo air zoo plans air show

By Doris Scharfenberg  
special writer

Wildcat, Hellcat, Tigercat, Bearcat, Grasshopper, Warhawk, Aircobra.

The "K'zoo air zoo" hunkers down in a gleaming hangar of its own: a fighting menagerie with engines that purr and hearts ready to take off.

These fierce sky creatures of World War II, gathered at the Kalamazoo Aviation History Museum, take to the sky June 8-9 in the High on Kalamazoo Air Show, but the museum is open year round.

In skins of yellow, green, blue and even pink, the trim fuselages and taut struts evoke admiring stares as their individual exploits are recounted by the guide.

BENEATH BRIGHT banners and flags, you meet such veterans as the Grumman F4F Wildcat, a plane with a victory-to-loss ratio of 6 to 1. The F6F-5 Hellcat (victory-to-loss ratio 19 to 1) turned the tide in the air war over the Pacific. Designed to intercept Japan's kamikazes, the F6F-1 Bearcat never saw service in the war, but served admirably into the '60s.

Also on display is "The Sweetheart of Okinawa" (F4U Corsair), the P-39 Aircobra with an Oldsmobile cannon in its nose, the Douglas A1E Skyraider used in Korea and Vietnam, a Douglas Skytrooper transport, etc. The display even includes a German-built aircraft, the HA 112 MIL Hispano Buchon.

One of the most stared-at planes on the museum floor has a light pink body, fierce mouth painted with teeth ready to rip into its prey and stenciled eyes (with eyelashes!).

The Curtiss P-40N Warhawk, the only U.S. plane to engage Japanese aircraft at Pearl Harbor, turned into a Flying Tiger against the Japanese in China. It is credited with shooting down 297 enemy aircraft, with a loss of 12 planes in combat.

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Boats like these two will appear in a sternwheeler regatta on the Ohio River near Marietta, Ohio June 28-30.

Think small  
One-horse towns offer more than you know

Mary Augusta Rodgers is a freelance writer who lives in Birmingham.

By Mary Augusta Rodgers  
special writer

Travelers driving south on interstate highways often don't know — or forget — what they're missing as the miles go by and the countryside becomes a blur. Small towns, for instance, can be a refreshing change. Many are interesting, easy to deal with and fun to explore. They're pleasant shopping, lunch or dinner or an overnight stay.

Here are two to consider: Augusta, Ky., and Marietta, Ohio, riverboat towns on either side of the Ohio River.

## AUGUSTA

Just 35 miles from Cincinnati and 175, Augusta is a little (population 1,400) world of its own, nestled on the banks of the Ohio River.

The last time we were there, the sky was blue, the river shone in the sunlight, fishermen waited patiently on a shady bank with their lines out, and the ferry from Boudes Landing, Ohio came in to dock with its flag flying in the breeze.

It was such a happy scene that a man strolling down Riverside Drive suddenly stopped and accented a woman he didn't know. "Come on-a my house!" he sang. "My house-a come on!"

The woman, sitting on the stoop of her house, enjoying the sun, smiled and waved. "You're off key, but I love it," said singer Rosemary Clooney. ("Come on-a My House" was one of her biggest hits.)

This is Rosemary Clooney country. There's a Rosemary Clooney Street in Marysville, not far away, where she was born. A show of watercolor and oil paintings by Gabriel Ferrer, her son, is on display at Augusta's small but prestigious Piedmont Gallery.

Augusta is also pioneer country, founded in 1797 and built on the site of an ancient Indian burial ground. It's survived wars, cholera epidemics, floods, fires and a blight that finished off the promising

vineyards planted by German settlers. (The winery, a massive limestone structure, remains; it's just off Route 8 on the way to Marysville.)

PARTS OF the TV mini-series "Centennial" were filmed in Augusta, as well as "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," made for public television. "Augusta has one of the very few open 19th-century waterfronts left in the country," said Bill Grooms, the producer. "It's a real treasure."

Augusta's oldest remaining house, on the corner of Ferry and Riverside, was built in 1800 by General John Payne, a cavalry officer in the War of 1812. Houses from the pioneer, federal and Victorian periods, graced with flowers, boxwood and brick walks, overlook the river. A 1795 log cabin, known as Brothens Tavern, was frequented by Daniel Boone and Simon Kenton.

The Piedmont Gallery has a fine collection of crafts, folk art and paintings of late 19th century artists from Northern Kentucky. Within a few blocks, visitors will find the Lamplighter Inn and several bed and breakfasts; the Beehive Tavern, which offers regional dishes like transparent pie and blackberry jam cake; two antique shops; and The Monday Morning Workshop, which sells handmade leather goods and handwoven rugs.

An arts and crafts festival and a sternwheeler regatta occur in Augusta June 28-30, and an event called Heritage Days (historic house tours, a flea market and street fair) is held Labor Day weekend.

The Piedmont Gallery: 115 West Riverside, Augusta, Ky. 41002; (606) 756-2216. Walking-tour maps of Augusta are available at the gallery, the drugstore, the bank and city hall. Augusta is too small to have a tourist bureau, but you can call the city clerk at (606) 756-2183 for information.

## MARIETTA, OHIO

Another historic river town, Marietta is situated where the Muskingum River flows into the Ohio, just off I-77, with Parkersburg, W.V. across the river.

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WILLIAM SCHOEN

Singer Rosemary Clooney sits on the stoop of her house in Augusta, Ky.



Beautiful houses like this one decorate the streets of Augusta, Ky.

WILLIAM SCHOEN

## Blasting down the river

By Denise Bahr  
special writer

I could hear the crashing sound of the approaching rapids as I sat on a swiftly-moving raft on the Youghiogheny River in Pennsylvania. I held my breath in anticipation of plunging into the fierce waters for the first time.

We were paddling like crazy and before I knew it I was staring into the plunging water and the raft was at the mercy of hydraulic forces. We surged downward, crashing through the white water, paddling and praying for our lives.

When the water calmed we looked at each other with exhilaration — we conquered the wild waters! The first set anyway. Between each set of rapids was calm water, allowing us to catch our breath and revel in the victory.

As a rookie rafter, there were a few things I didn't know: how to dress, what white-water rafting feels like and safety precautions to name a few. I quickly learned.

I went with the Mountain Streams and Trails Outfitters rafting company that runs rafting trips in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Maryland. The difficulty of the rafting depends on the water level, the river, and the time of year.

WHEN WATER levels are high, or when running a difficult river, a professional guide attends each raft. The guide explains paddling procedures and how to handle different rapids. You need to know how to paddle when going backwards downstream, what to do if the raft capsizes, and how to avoid smashing into rocks face first if you fall out.

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Having fun rafting down the Cheat River in West Virginia.