

# TRAVEL

O&E Monday, November 16, 1991

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crossroads  
**Iris Sanderson Jones**

## Time for teens to think spring

By Iris Sanderson Jones  
special writer

Spring may seem a long way away to you, but seniors from Novi, Livonia, Farmington, Groves and other high schools in the area are thinking about Easter week and spring break.

They have started gathering travel brochures about Daytona Beach and South Padre Island, about cruise ships and Caribbean destinations.

Charlotte Boedigheimer of Around the World Travel in Farmington spends a lot of her time as a travel agent thinking about the young. Every year she is involved in trips for the Global Education Department at Stevenson High School in Livonia. At this time of year, she thinks spring break.

A lot of cruise lines and resorts will not accept high school students travelling in groups during spring break, because they have learned the hard way about damaged rooms and injured guests. Those that will accept groups of students often ask for a very high deposit, just in case.

"Some travel agents accept a booking and don't tell the destination that it is a spring-break booking. Sometimes the kids get to their destination and they won't let them in."

"We always tell the destination that young people are coming, so we can ensure the spring breaker that he will get what he wants."

Around the World Travel has scheduled three Easter week packages for high school students and others.

A seven-night package to Cancun, Mexico, April 18-25 costs \$704 a person for three people and \$774 a person for two people. The price includes roundtrip air, transfers, the Calinda Viva Hotel, plus taxes and gratuities.

A seven-night package for the same dates to the Radisson Hotel and Resort in South Padre Island costs \$559 per person for four people in a room, \$661 per person for three people in a room.

Charlotte thinks her cruise package aboard Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines' Song of America is of special interest, because both parents and cruise line know that the students are chaperoned by high school teachers.

"Cruise ships will book one cabin at a time but they won't normally book groups. Our group tour is sanctioned because of the way we handle it," she said. "We hold a meeting ahead of time with the students, the teachers and the parents. We ask the students to sign a letter of agreed behavior."

The price for the seven-night cruise April 19-26 is \$1,095 per person for four people in a cabin, \$1,193 per person for three people in a cabin. The cruise goes to Grand Cayman, Jamaica, Cozumel and Labadee.

For information, call Charlotte at 476-3433. Or contact your own travel agent for information.

If you have travelled on a high school or college spring break trip and have some advice for your peers, or if you recommend a particular spring break package, drop us a line at 22000 Springbrook, 206C, Farmington Hills, Mich. 48335.

## A merry old English inn in Michigan

By Iris Sanderson Jones  
special writer

Dusty's English Inn is about treed lawns and English gardens wrapped around a Tudor mansion on a grassy knoll near Eaton Rapids, Mich., but most of all it's about people.

It's about the auto magnate whose family frolicked down the sweep of lawn to the Grand River. It's about the local diners who were once groundskeepers and ladies maids on the property. It's about Dusty Rhodes, who was in the radio and newspaper business in Michigan for many years before he moved to Britain and fell in love with English country life.

Ask Dusty to show you the old photographs taken when the house was being built by Irving J. Reuter, president of Oldsmobile, especially the photo dated August 1927. Dusty was born Clarence Rhodes on Aug. 8, 1927, son of a Flint assembly worker. He was destined to be called Dusty Rhodes and he was destined to own this inn.

When I turned off M-99 13 miles south of Lansing I saw at once why this 23-room Tudor mansion, that looks like a little sister of Meadowbrook Hall in Rochester, is called an "English inn." The two-story brick mansion, with the sloping slate roofs, is straight from the midlands of England.

In England, heaters might punt along the Grand River and enter the inn from the river side, climbing uphill past the colonnaded swimming pool and the gazebo, through the stepped gardens to the house. I entered along the slate path from the parking lot.

Inn worker Jane Kuderko, born and raised in Howell, welcomed me into the large open hall, which has tall views left to the Devonshire Room, right to the Midford Room and up the staircase with its hunter green carpet to the second floor.

Jane led me upstairs, past rooms with names like Windsor and Avon to the hall. "You're in the bathroom." At least that is what I thought she said. I had asked for their least expensive room, but I didn't expect to have to sleep in the bathtub.

It was, of course, the Bath Room, a huge green-tiled bathroom that led into a smaller 10-by-12-foot bedroom, with a four-poster bed and leaded windows that opened front and side. A bit of Dusty Rhodes whimsy. Dusty has a second home in Bath, England, so you will find small references to Bath all over the inn.

Dusty was still a television news executive when he moved to London with his wife and five children in the 1970s. He fell in love with English country life and spent his weekends exploring inns, pubs and bed-and-breakfast places. He came home to Michigan, quit the news business, opened a bakery and later a wine bar and pub in Okemos.

Dusty knows how to answer when opportunity knocks. In 1989 he heard about this mansion from the author of



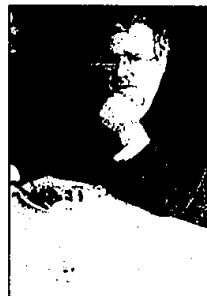
a bed-and-breakfast guide book. He saw the initial "R" carved for auto magnate Irving Reuter on the fireplace mantle and knew he was home.

Reuter had sold the place to the Catholic Diocese of Lansing in 1940; the bishop's chapel is now the Charles Dickens Pub. The diocese sold the house to Mr. and Mrs. C.J. Sumner in 1962. The Sumners sold it to Dusty on condition that their granddaughter could be married there the next summer.

The inn has been open for nearly two years and has become a popular dining place for Lansing people and those who know enough to turn south off I-96 near Lansing. The inn opened a full-service dining room that spreads through all its downstairs rooms this year.

The least-expensive guest room in the house is the Bath Room, \$75 for two; the most expensive is the Windsor Suite, \$155 for two. Dinner entrees, which include salad, vegetables, potatoes and bread, range from \$13.50 to \$18 during Monday through Saturday seatings or at the special English Sunday lunch. Weekday lunches feature soup, salad and sandwiches.

For information, contact your travel agency or Dusty's English Inn, 728 S. Michigan Ave., Eaton Rapids, Mich. 48827 or call (517) 683-2500.



Above, the Somerset Room at Dusty's English Inn in Eaton Rapids. At left is owner Dusty Rhodes.

## Travel program, film, museum series set

The city of Southfield announces a World Travel & Adventure Series. Wales and the Lakes of England will be featured Dec. 13. Call 354-4717 for tickets.

On Dec. 4, the Farmington Community Library, Liberty Street, will feature a film on

western mountain and coastal states, including Alaska and Hawaii. Call 474-7770 for details. The Michigan Historical Museum in downtown Lansing will host a series of Super Saturdays for kids from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 15 and April 11. Admission is free. Call (517) 373-3559 for details.

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