TRAVEL

England shows its sunny side to garden group

(Marty Figle is the Observer & Eccentrie's At Home garden columnist. She lives in Birmingham.)
Despite the reputation of England for having foggy, rainy days, our trip to England last May proved to be sunny and bright, with just a touch of chill in the air.

bright, with just a tourn of came in the air.

Upon arriving at Heathrow, the bus whisked us northwest through the tranquil beauty and rolling hills to Chipping Campden, a charming little village in the Cotswolds. Hanging baskets of petunins lined the streets. We visited an old church and enjoyed the local gardens, often pecking through doorways and fences. A garden for autistic children was especially nice. This was our home base for four days, from which we traveled by motor

Rarnsley House Garden, where Rosemary Verey used herbaceous plants, structure and neroaccous punts, structure and color to create a variety of gar-dens throughout the grounds, features a pleached lime walk, knot gardens, an ornamental vegetable garden, temples and

vegetable garden, temples and statuary.

Blenheim Palace, birtliplace of Winston Churchill, is very large and ornate. Two very formal gardens with clipped hedges and topiary were in the back, one with water and the other which was private. One area contains greenhouses, an herb and vegetable garden and is reached by a small train.

In Stratford-on-Avon we visited William Shakespeare's birth-place where much of the original structure, dating back to the 1500s can still be seen. We

toured the timber-framed house that contains furniture and paintings of the time, the resi-dence of his son-in-law, Dr. John

dence of his son-in-law, Dr. John Hall.

Warwick Castle is considered by many to be the finest medieval castle in England. It dates back to 1068. Peacocks atrutted in the garden near the conservatory. The Gheat Tower provided its own particular thrills, as modern electronics produced music, voices and ghost shadows on the walls.

Kiftagate Court was a pure delight, with a series of colorful enclosed gardens surrounding the house that sits on the edge of a precipitous valley.

delight, with a series of coordinal conclosed gardens surrounding the house that sits on the edge of a precipitous valley. The time spent in this beautiful country area went all too first and soon we were heading for London, our base for the next five days.

A sajourn into the countryside gave us an apportunity to stop at Cranbrook, the town which inspired the Booth family's. Cranbrook, Several women on the tour were Cranbrook graduates so the driver stapped to allow time for photographs. A real treat for them.

We enjoyed the impressive gardens of Sissinghurst Castle that Vita-Sackville West and her husband, Harold Nicolson, began restoring in the 1930s. A tower containing Vita's studie commands attention and we carefully walked up a spiral staircase to reach the top. From there we could easily see the layout of the gardens, the old brick walls, yew hedges and paths. Within these boundaries were here cettage gardens, case garden, famous white garden etc.

Several visits are necessary to really get the feel and importance of the great Kew Gardens, but it was a pleasure to see it

again. It contains more than 30,000 different plant species, several conservatories and other structures, specialty gardens

again. It contains more than 30,000 different plant species, several conservatories and other structures, specialty gardens and much more.

The focus of the trip was to visit the famous Chelsea Flower Show and we arrived at 8:10 a.m. in order to see some of it before the crowds got too large. About 700 exhibits are housed in the Great Marquee, a tent that covers 3.5 acres. Plants of all descriptions, including begonias, roses, clematis, dahlias, fuchsias, vegetables and societies such as the hardy plant, carnivorous, bonasi, herb, are all represented. Extravaganzas of flowers such as the hardy plant, carnivorous, bonasi, herb, are all represented. Extravaganzas of flowers such as the hardy plant, carnivorous, bonasi, herb, are all represented. Extravaganzas of flowers such as the hardy plant, carnivorous, bonasi, herb, are all represented. Extravaganzas of flowers such as the hardy plant, carnivorous, bonasi, herb, are all represented. Extravaganzas of flowers such as the hardy plant, carnivorous, bonasi, herb, are all represented. Extravaganzas of flowers flowers as a flower such as the hardy plant, carnivorous, bonasi, herb, are all represented. Extravaganzas of flowers as a flower such as the hardy plant, carnivorous, bonasi, herb, are all represented. Extravaganzas of flowers as a flower such as the flower such as the

GREAT ESCAPES

turing 700 exhibits

Chelsea morning: Marty Figley and her group arrived at 8:10 a.m. at the famous Chelsea Flower Show fea-

orea excopes features various travel news items. Send news leads to Hugh Gallagher, assi-tant managing editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Inc., 36251 Schooleraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or fax them to (313) 591-7279. Great Escapes features various

STRATFORD FESTIVAL SEASON

The Stratford Festival in Stratford, Ontario, has announced its 1998 season line-up for the May-November play

ason. At the 1,832-seat Festival The-At the 1,832-seat Festival Theatre the plays will be Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" and The Two Gentlemen of Verona, the musical "Man of La Mancha," and Robert Bolt's "A Man for All Seasons."
At the 1,107-seat Avon Theatre, the plays are Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing," July Presson Allen's "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie," William Gisson's "The Miracle Worker" and Moliere's "The Miser."
At the intimate 496-seat Tom Patterson, the plays are Shake-

Patterson, the plays are Shake-speare's "The Winter's Tale," Chekhov's "The Cherry speare's "The Winter's Tale," Chekhov's "The Cherry Orchard," Tennessee Williams' "The Night of the Iguana" and



Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for

Godot."
Tickets for the general public Tickets for the general public by phone will go on sale Monday, Jan. 19, more than a month earlier than previously. For information on becoming a member of the Stratford Festival, call (519)271-4040, ext. 5502. For further ticket information, call the Ticket Office at 1-800-567-1600.

TERRACE INN

TERRACE INN
The Terrace Inn located in Bay
View, a Victorian village adjucent to Petoskey, is offering getaway packages. The Inn will feature a Cooking/Wine Tasting
getaway Friday-Saturday, Oct.
17-18, featuring chef Brian Polcyn, David Beier and Randy
Thorpe. The getaway includes
two nights lodging, a cooking
demonstration and a gourner
five course dinner and complimentary wine tasting for \$199
per person (\$139 without cook-

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ing class). For more information, call (616)347-2410.

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VILLAGE BACH FESTIVAL

The Thumb comming has of Caro and Case City-will soot the Village Bach Festival under the Village Bach Festival under the leadership of music director Don Thomas Jaeger Nov. 25-30.

Members of the Festival Orchestra and vocal and instrumental soloists will gather for this annual Thankagiving festival to rehearse and perform the music of J.S Bach and other baroque, comantic and modern composers. World acclaimed performers will participate included featured vocal soloists Penclope Jensen, soprano; Quentin Querou, tenor, and Timothy Jones, haritone. Harpsichordist Luyton James, violinist Joanne Proucil Rose and flutist Carl Elienberger will perform the Brandenburg Concerto No. 6° by Bach, James will also perform on the Acollan Skinner pipe organ at the First

Presbyterian Church in Caro.
For ticket information, call 1-(517)872-2121, ext. 269 or write to the Village Bach Festival, P.O. Box 27, Cass City, MI 48726.

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STEAMBOAT SAVINGS

The Delta Queen Steamboat
Co is offering 2-for-1 fares for steamboat vacations in January and February. Vacations in January and February. Vacations prices start at \$505 for two people for three nights. All of these cruises are aboard either "The Mississippi Queen" or "The American Queen" on the lower Mississippi River and most are round-trip from New Orleans. Passengers will enjoy visits to quaint ports of call, lectures on river history and lore, Victorian style accommodations, calliope concerts and four meals a day with optional shore tours. Passengers can choose from two onboard themes, Big Band and Dixie Fest. For reservations, contact a travel agent, For more information, call Delta Queen at 800-621-3410.



MEMINOWAY FESTIVAL.
On Oct. 16-19, Petoskey will hold a Hemingway Festival to celebrate the life and work of author Ernest Hemingway. Among the events will be a young Hemingway look-alike contest, a tennis tournament, a

Antigua from \$649 Barbados from \$629

Cozumel from \$599

fly fishing contest and a writer's contest. The weekend is a rehearsal for the Nobel Prizewinning author's 100th birthday celebration in 1999. For more information, contact the Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce at 616-347-4150.



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