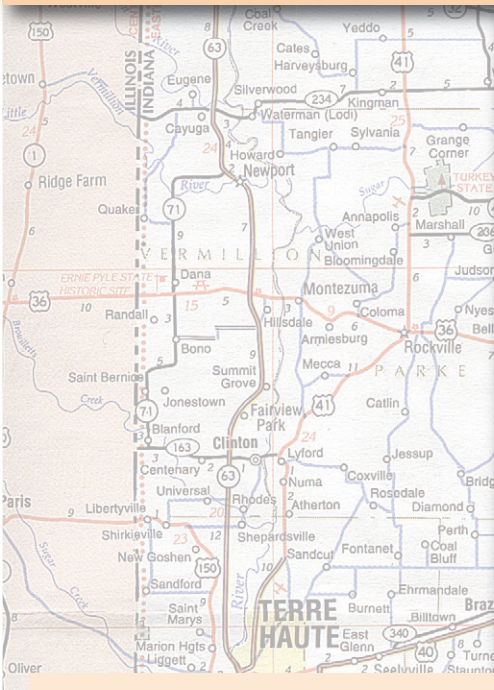
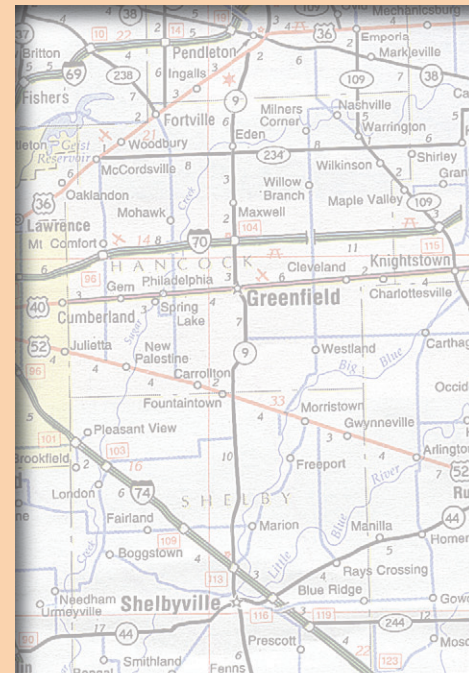


Orange County

Resorts are close to home and far from ordinary



Dogwoods frame the main entrance to the historic French Lick Springs Hotel in Orange County.



By Patricia Happel Cornwell

Special to *The Criterion*

“Vacation” means different things to different people.

For one person, it’s a glitzy hotel. For another, it’s golfing, horseback riding or swimming.

Some people love to walk in the footsteps of history. Others just want to traipse around in their own back yard.

Whichever definition of “vacation” is yours, it’s just down the road in Orange County in southern Indiana.

Despite its name, Orange County is overwhelmingly green and blue. More than half of it is in the vast Hoosier National Forest, shown in gray on the map. Most of Patoka Lake lies within its boundaries as do Jackson, Tillery Hill and Springs Valley State Recreational Areas.

Orange County resorts

Historically, however, Orange County has been famous for its luxury hotels at French Lick and West Baden.

Now owned by the same company and completely renovated, they have won numerous awards and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1812, French Lick was the site of an Indiana

Territory fort. The posh accommodations found there today are a far cry from that crude beginning. If you haven’t seen these hotels in the last few years, you won’t believe your eyes.

French Lick Springs Hotel was built in 1845, drawing crowds to bathe in the “miracle waters” of its sulfur springs, which it bottled as “Pluto Water.” President Franklin D. Roosevelt and other early 20th-century notables enjoyed its hospitality. One can picture the 32nd president sitting in one of the rockers on the long colonnaded porch.

Today, the hotel has 443 rooms, indoor-outdoor pools, golf courses, a spa, a salon and a fitness center. It houses restaurants, a bowling alley and a casino. “Retail therapy” is available at several shops, and guests can avail themselves of guided historic tours.

Pluto mineral baths are still popular. The two resorts share riding stables and three golf courses.

French Lick Springs Hotel also occasionally hosts concerts. Upcoming headliners include country singers Clint Black on May 30 and Lee Ann Rimes on June 19.

French Lick Springs Hotel is located at 8670 W. State Road 56 in French Lick. For more information, call 888-694-4332 or log on to www.frenchlick.com.

West Baden Springs Hotel was built in 1902 to replace an 1855 hotel destroyed in a fire. It is surmounted by what was then the world’s largest dome, hailed as the Eighth Wonder of the World.

Like French Lick, it attracted visitors to its mineral waters. At one time, seven rail lines brought people to “take the cure.” Presidential candidate Alfred Smith, “Diamond Jim” Brady and gangster Al Capone were among West Baden’s guests.

During the Great Depression, West Baden was sold to the Society of Jesus for a dollar and served as a Jesuit seminary from 1932 to 1964. In 1966, it was sold to Northwood Institute, which operated until 1983 and sold the property in 1985. I remember seeing it about that time with falling plaster, buckling floors and overgrown gardens.

The historic building languished until the mid-1990s when corporate, philanthropic and historic preservation interests coalesced to restore it. The restoration was not completed, however, and the building awaited new funding before work was resumed in 2006.

Reopened in 2007, West Baden Springs Hotel offers 243 rooms, a natatorium, a spa, a salon, a fitness center,

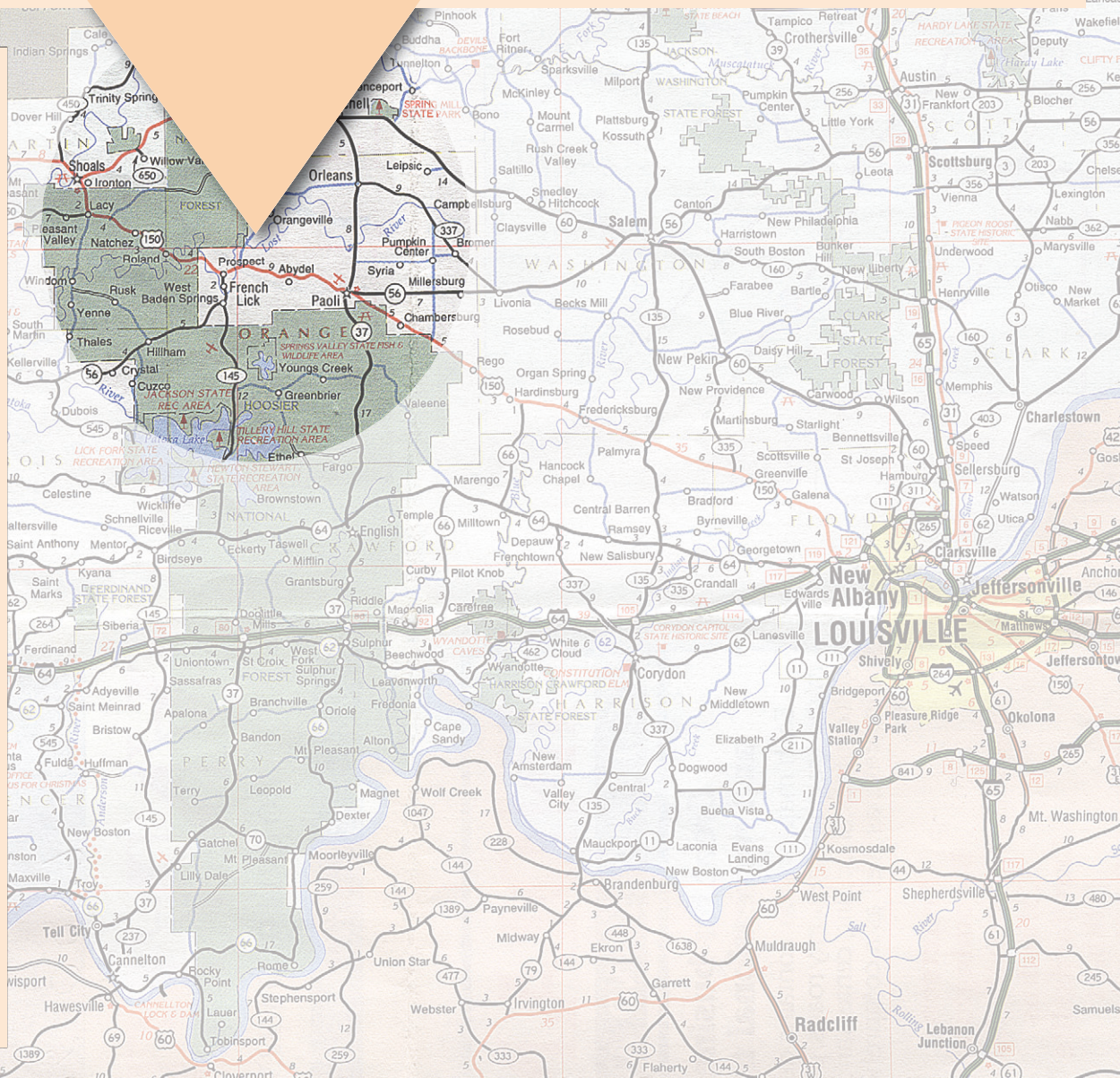
See **ORANGE**, page 2B



Above, as visitors have for more than 160 years, modern-day guests spend a lazy afternoon in the rocking chairs lining the long porch at French Lick Springs Hotel.



Left, murals decorate the ceiling in the lobby of the elegantly refurbished French Lick Springs Hotel.



ORANGE

continued from page 1B

restaurants, shops, formal gardens, horseback riding and golf.

As impressive as the massive dome is, I observed that many people, on entering the huge atrium, look down rather than up because they are fascinated by the intricate mosaic floors.

Unlike its sister resort in bustling downtown French Lick, West Baden Springs Hotel immerses you in a hushed, idyllic setting. Wild violets bloom under tall trees and well-disciplined boxwoods form geometric patterns around the fountain in the formal garden.

West Baden Springs Hotel is located at 8538 West Baden Ave. in West Baden Springs. For more information, call 888-936-9360.

Orange County attractions

Orange County is also home to the Indiana Railway Museum, French Lick Winery, Patoka Lake, Paoli Peaks Big Splash Adventure Indoor Water Park.

At the Railway Museum in French Lick, you can admire train memorabilia and, on weekends from April to November, take a 10-mile round-trip train ride to Cuzco.

On special weekends, "train robberies" are perpetrated by McKnight's Rangers, re-enactors on horseback. The next "robberies" will be on May 23-25.

The museum is in the 1907 Monon Depot on State Road 56. For more information, call 800-74-TRAIN or log on to www.indianarailwaymuseum.org.

Wine lovers will enjoy French Lick Winery's spacious tasting room, gift shop and Vintage Café. The wine cake is worth tasting, too. This moist pink cake tastes like a Grape Nehi soft drink for those old enough to remember that soda.

Located in the former Kimball piano factory, the winery sits back from State Road 56. For more information, call 888-494-6380 or log on to www.frenchlickwinery.com.

If you like outdoor fun, you will love Patoka Lake, 8,800 acres of "water wonderland" amid a 26,000-acre property that accommodates boating, fishing, water-skiing, camping, hiking, biking, archery, swimming and picnicking.

Houseboats, party barges and pontoon boats can be rented at the marina, located at



Seven miles from West Baden, the "Rise at Orangeville" is a National Natural Landmark where the Lost River vanishes into southern Indiana's underground "karst" system.



The grand dome of the West Baden Springs Hotel is flanked by turrets and nestled in a wooded landscape in southern Indiana.

2291 N. Dillard Road in Birdseye. For more information, call 888-819-6916 or log on to www.patokalakemarina.com.

Springs Valley Lake, also called Tucker Lake, is six miles south of French Lick on County Road 550 West. It offers hiking, primitive camping, bicycling and fishing, but only using electric-motor boats. For more information, call 812-275-5987.

For those who prefer climate-controlled recreational activities, Big Splash Adventure is a new 40,000 square-foot indoor water park and 154-room hotel a stone's throw from French Lick Springs on W. State Road 56. For more information, call 877-936-3866 or log on to www.bigsplashadventure.com.

If you're up for exploring, seek out the Lost River at the "Rise at Orangeville." This Registered Natural Landmark is seven miles west of West Baden via State Road 56 and State Road 150 to County Road 550 West. This road follows the river.

At the stop sign in Orangeville, the river vanishes beneath a rock wall, part of southern Indiana's underground "karst" system. You can hear, but not see, falling water. There is no park, not even a picnic table—just a curiosity of nature.

Orange County festivities

From mid-May through late October, the Orange County Home Grown Farmers Market is open in Orleans on Saturdays from 8 a.m. until noon and in French Lick, next to the Railway Museum, on Tuesdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. For more information about both farmers markets, call 812-732-5877 or log on to www.orangecountyhomegrown.org.

Bluegrass fans will want to be on the Orleans town square on June 13-15 for the Lotus Dickey Hometown Music and Arts Reunion. For more information about this outdoor concert, call 812-723-4318 or log on to www.lotusdickey.org.

The last week of July finds youngsters grooming their prize calves and rabbits, and homemakers baking pies for the Orange County 4-H Fair in Paoli. Events include truck and tractor pulls, and a lip sync contest. For more information, call the Orange County Purdue Extension Office at 812-732-7107 or

log on to www.ces.purdue.edu/orange.

The Orange County Pumpkin Festival rolls around the end of September and runs through the first weekend of October. There is a parade in French Lick on the first Sunday in October, and downtown you will find a flea market, carnival rides, food stands and nightly entertainment. For more information, call 812-936-2405.

Orange County directions

Orange County lies west of Salem and south of Bloomington. State Road 37, State Road 56 and State Road 150 converge at the 1850 Greek Revival courthouse in Paoli, the county seat.

Besides the resorts at French Lick and West Baden, lodging can be found at numerous motels and inns. Cabins can be rented at Lake Patoka and some private campgrounds. For more information, log on to the Orange County Convention and Visitors Bureau Web site at <http://orangecountyin.com>.

From Indianapolis, Orange County can be reached via State Road 37 South, 108 miles to Paoli. French Lick is 11 miles west of Paoli on State Road 56. From New Albany, Paoli is 44 miles via I-265 West and I-64 West to the Greenville/Paoli exit then State Road 150 to State Road 56.

From southwestern Indiana, be alert to a perplexing road change. From I-64 East, exit 79 puts drivers on a brand new road called State Road 37, which becomes State Road 145 to French Lick. This is not to be confused with the old section of State Road 37 at exit 86 that has now been renamed State Road 237, but becomes State Road 37 again farther north toward Paoli. The new stretch of State Road 37, built to funnel travelers to the resorts, is not included in any of the 2009 editions of the Indiana state maps or atlases that I found nor on MapQuest online or in the Garmin GPS system.



A path flanked by manicured boxwoods leads to a romantic Greek temple gazebo on the grounds of the West Baden Springs Hotel.



The vastness of the atrium beneath the beautiful dome of West Baden Springs Hotel is rivaled by the sumptuousness of its appointments.

Orange County Mass times

Eastern Daylight Mass times for area Catholic parishes are as follows:

- Our Lady of the Springs Church, 8796 W. State Road 56, French Lick—Masses are scheduled on Saturday at 5 p.m., and on Sunday at 7:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. For more information, call 812-936-4568.

- Our Lord Jesus Christ the King Church, Highway 150 E., 833 S. Triangle Road, Paoli—Mass is scheduled on Sunday at 9 a.m. For more information, call 812-936-4568.

- St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1723 I St., Bedford—Masses are scheduled on Saturday at 5 p.m. and on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call 812-275-6539.

- St. Joseph Church, 341 S. State Road 66, Marengo, two miles south of the traffic light in Crawford County—Mass is scheduled on Sunday at 9:15 a.m. For more information, call 812-347-2326.

(Patricia Happel Cornwell of Corydon is a correspondent for The Criterion.) †

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Parish Festivals

May 23

St. John the Baptist Parish in Starlight, mailing address, 8310 St. John Road, **Floyds Knobs**. "Strawberry Festival," 8 a.m.-1 a.m., make your own shortcake, street dance. Information: 812-923-5785.

May 27-30

St. Rita Parish, 1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., **Indianapolis**. 11th annual "Sister to Sister Celebration," Wed., gospel music, 6:30 p.m., Thurs., Bible study, 6:30 p.m. Fri., youth night, 6:30 p.m., Sat., prayer breakfast, 9 a.m., \$5 per person. Information: 317-632-9349.

St. Rose Parish, 8144 W. U.S. Highway 40, **Knightstown**. "U.S. 40 Rummage Sale," variety of items, food booth, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Information: 765-345-5595.

May 29-31

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Parish, 1401 N. Bosart Ave., **Indianapolis**. "Summerfest," Fri. 5 p.m.-11 p.m., Sat. 3 p.m.-11 p.m., Sun. 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m., rides, games, food, entertainment. Information: 317-357-8352.

June 4-6

St. Simon the Apostle Parish, 8155 Oaklandon Road, **Indianapolis**. Parish festival, 5 p.m.-midnight, rides, games, entertainment, food. Information: 317-826-6000, ext. 3.

June 4-7

Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., **Greenwood**. "Summer Festival," Thurs. 5 p.m.-11 p.m., Italian dinner, 5 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight, fish fry, 5 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Sat. 2 p.m.-midnight, pork chop dinner, 4 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Sun. noon-9 p.m., fried chicken dinner, noon-3 p.m., rides, games, food. Information: 317-888-2861, ext. 236.

June 5-7

St. Louis School, 17 St. Louis Place, **Batesville**. Rummage sale, Fri. 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-4 p.m., half-price sale noon-4 p.m., Sun. 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., \$1 bag sale. Information: 812-934-3204.

June 12-13

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, 520 Stevens St., **Indianapolis**. 26th annual "Italian Street Festival," Fri.-Sat. 5 p.m.-11 p.m., Italian foods, music, rides. Information: 317-636-4478.

June 12-14

St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, 6000 W. 34th St., **Indianapolis**. "International Festival," Fri.-Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sun. 5 p.m.-10 p.m., food, games, rides. Information: 317-291-7014, ext. 27.

St. Anthony Parish, 337 N. Warman Ave., **Indianapolis**. "Summer Festival," food, trash-to-treasures sale, games, Thurs. 6 p.m.-10 p.m., Fri. and Sat. 6 p.m.-11 p.m. Information: 317-636-4828.

June 13

St. Ambrose Parish and Our Lady of Providence Parish, 325 S. Chestnut St., **Seymour**. "St. Ambrose Kermesse," food festival, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Information: 812-522-5304.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 2322 N. 13½ St., **Terre Haute**. Parish auction, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 812-466-1231.

June 14

St. Paul Parish, 814 Jefferson St., **Tell City**. Parish picnic, City Hall Park, 700 Main St., across from church, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., games, food. Information: 812-547-7994.

June 18-20

St. Bernadette Parish, 4838 E. Fletcher Ave., **Indianapolis**. "Summer Festival," Thurs. 5-10 p.m., Fri. and Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, games, rides, food. Information: 317-356-5867.

June 19-20

St. Therese Benedicta of the Cross Parish, 23670 Salt Fork Road, **Lawrenceburg**. "Summer Festival," Fri. fish fry, Sat. chicken dinner, 5-11 p.m. Information: 812-656-8700.

St. Mary Parish, 415 E. Eighth St., **New Albany**. 25th annual "Street Dance Weekend," Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 6 p.m.-1 a.m., games, food, music, dance Sat. night. Information: 812-944-9775.

June 20

Knights of Columbus #3660, 511 E. Thompson Road, **Indianapolis**. Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, "Feast of the Sacred Heart," dinner and reception, 6:30 p.m.-11 p.m., free-will offering. Information: 317-638-5551.

June 25-27

St. Jude Parish, 5353 McFarland Road, **Indianapolis**. "Summer Festival," 5 p.m.-midnight, food, games, rides. Information: 317-786-4371.

June 26-27

Christ the King Parish, 1827 E. Kessler Blvd., **Indianapolis**. "Summer Social," Fri.-Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, food, music, games, talent show, entertainment, rummage sale. Information: 317-255-3666.

June 28

St. Maurice Parish, 1963 N. St. John St., **Greensburg**. Parish picnic, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., roast beef and chicken dinners, games, quilts, country store. Information: 812-663-4754.

St. Nicholas Parish, 6461 E. St. Nicholas Drive, **Sunman**. Parish picnic, "All you can eat" chicken and roast beef dinners, turtle soup, games, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Information: 812-623-2964.

July 9-11

Holy Spirit Parish, 7243 E. 10th St., **Indianapolis**. Parish festival, 5:30 p.m.-11 p.m., rides, food, music, entertainment. Information: 317-353-9404.

July 10-11

St. Benedict Parish, 111 S. Ninth St., **Terre Haute**. "Community Festival," 5 p.m.-midnight, flea market, children's games, food, music, \$2 admission. Information: 812-232-8421.

July 10-12

St. Lawrence Parish, 542 Walnut St., **Lawrenceburg**. Parish festival, food, music, rides, Fri. 5:30 p.m.-midnight, pork chop dinner, Sat. 2 p.m.-midnight, German dinner, Sun. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., chicken dinner. Information: 812-537-3992.

July 12

Harrison County Fairgrounds, 341 Capitol Ave., **Corydon**. St. Joseph Parish, parish picnic, 10:30 a.m., food, games. Information: 812-738-2742.

July 16-18

St. Christopher Parish, 5301 W. 16th St., **Indianapolis**.

70th annual "Midsummer Festival," Thurs. 4:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m., Fri. 4:30 p.m.-11 p.m., Sat. noon-11 p.m., food, games, rides. Information: 317-241-6314.

July 17-18

St. Susanna Parish, 1210 E. Main St., **Plainfield**. Parish festival, Fri. 6 p.m.-11 p.m., pulled pork dinner, Sat. 4:30 p.m.-midnight, chicken dinner, food, games, music. Information: 317-839-3333.

July 19

St. John the Baptist Parish, 25743 State Road 1, **Dover**. "Summer Festival," 11 a.m.-6 p.m., fried chicken dinner, 11 a.m.-8 p.m., games. Information: 812-576-4302.

St. Mary Parish, Navilleton, 7500 Navilleton Road, **Floyds Knobs**. Parish picnic, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., chicken dinner, games. Information: 812-923-5419.

July 23-25

St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, 535 E. Edgewood Ave., **Indianapolis**. "Fun Fest," 5 p.m.-midnight, rides, food, music, games. Information: 317-787-8246.

July 24-25

St. Anthony of Padua Parish, 316 N. Sherwood Ave., **Clarksville**. Parish picnic, Fri. 5 p.m.-11 p.m., Sat. 2 p.m.-midnight, chicken dinner, Sat., food, entertainment. Information: 812-282-2290.

July 25-26

St. Martin Parish, 8044 Yorkridge Road, **Yorkville**. Parish festival, Sat. 4:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., prime rib dinner, 4:30 p.m.-8 p.m., Sun. 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m., fried chicken dinner, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m., food, games, music. Information: 812-623-3408.

July 26

St. Augustine Parish, 18020 Lafayette St., **Leopold**. Parish festival and picnic, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., chicken dinner, quilts, games. Information: 812-843-5143.

July 26-August 1

Jackson County Fairgrounds, **Seymour**. St. Ambrose Parish and Our Lady of Providence Parish, Jackson County Fair, food booth 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Information: 812-522-5304.

July 31-August 1

St. Joseph Parish, 2605 St. Joe Road W., **Sellersburg**. Parish yard sale, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 812-246-2512.

August 1

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, 523 S. Merrill St., **Fortville**. "Summer Festival," 11 a.m.-10 p.m., games, food, entertainment, auction, chicken and noodles dinner. Information: 317-485-5102.

August 2

St. Bernard Parish, 7600 Highway 337, **Frenchtown**. Parish picnic, 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m., old-fashioned country church picnic, country style dinner. Information: 812-347-2326.

St. Boniface Parish, 15519 N. State Road 545, **Fulda**. Parish picnic, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., food, quilts. Information: 812-357-5533.

August 8-9

St. Paul Parish, 9798 N. Dearborn Road, **Guilford/New Alsace**. Parish festival, Sat. 6 p.m.-midnight, Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., chicken dinner, quilts, food, games, music. Information: 812-487-2096.

See **FESTIVALS**, page 4B

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FESTIVALS

continued from page 3B

August 9

St. Mary Parish, 2500 St. Mary's Drive, **Lanesville**. Parish picnic, fried chicken and country ham dinners, booths, quilts, games, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 812-952-2853.

August 14

St. Rose of Lima Parish, 114 Lancelot Drive, **Franklin**. Parish festival, dinners, music, rides, games, Thurs. and Fri. 5-11 p.m., Sat. 1-11 p.m. Information: 317-738-3929.

August 16

St. Pius Parish, County Road 500 E., **Sunman**. Parish picnic, chicken dinner, games, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 812-623-8007.

August 21

St. Anne Parish, 102 N. 19th St., **New Castle**. Pork chop dinner, 4-7 p.m. Information: 765-529-0933.

August 21-22

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 46th and Illinois streets, **Indianapolis**. "Sausage Fest," food, music, Fri. and Sat. 4 p.m.-11 p.m. Information: 317-253-1461.

Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish, 7225 Southeastern Ave., **Indianapolis**. "Augustravaganza," rides, food, music, entertainment, 4 p.m.-midnight. Information: 317-357-1200.

August 27-29

St. Ann Parish, 6350 Mooresville Road, **Indianapolis**. Parish festival, rides, games, food, Thurs. 5-10 p.m., Fri. and Sat. 5-11 p.m. Information: 317-244-3750.

August 28-29

Prince of Peace Parish, 413 E. Second St., **Madison**. "Community Festival," Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School, 201 W. State St., Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight., Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, food, rides, games. Information: 812-265-4166.

August 29

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 5692 Central Ave., **Indianapolis**. "Fall Festival," food, music, games, 3-11 p.m. Information: 317-257-2266.

September 4-7

Sacred Heart Parish, 558 Nebeker St., **Clinton**. "Little Italy Festival," Water Street in downtown Clinton, Fri. 6 p.m.-11 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Mon. 11 a.m.-closing, Italian food, entertainment. Information: 765-832-8468.

September 6

St. John the Evangelist Parish, 9995 E. Base Road, **Enochsburg**. Parish festival, fried chicken and roast beef dinners, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: 812-934-2880.

September 7

St. Anthony of Padua Parish, 4791 E. Morris Church St., **Morris**. "Labor Day Festival," games, food, mock turtle soup, quilts, 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Information: 812-934-6218.

September 10-12

St. Joseph Parish, 1375 S. Mickley Ave., **Indianapolis**. Parish festival, food, rides, games, Thurs. and Fri. 5-11 p.m., Sat. noon-11 p.m. Information: 317-244-9902.

September 11

St. Anne Parish, 5267 N. Hamburg Road, **Oldenburg**. Turkey supper, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Information: 812-934-5854.

September 12

Marian Inc., 1011 E. St. Clair St., **Indianapolis**. Holy Cross Parish, "Feast of the Holy Cross," dinner, dance and silent auction, 6 p.m.-11 p.m., \$50 per person. Information: 317-637-2620.

St. Anne Parish, 102 N. 19th St., **New Castle**.

"Fall Bazaar," 8 a.m.-2 p.m., crafts, bookstore, rummage sale, stained-glass and slate souvenirs from church. Information: 765-529-0933.

St. Joan of Arc Parish, 4217 N. Central Ave., **Indianapolis**.

"French Market," noon-10 p.m., French food, booths, children's activity area, entertainment. Information: 317-283-5508.

September 12-13

St. Michael Parish, 145 St. Michael Blvd., **Brookville**. "Fall Fest," Sat. grilled smoked pork chop supper, Sun. pan-fried chicken dinner, Sat. 4 p.m.-10 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Information: 765-647-5462. St. Mary (Immaculate Conception) Parish, 512 N. Perkins

St., **Rushville**. "Fall Festival," Sat. noon-11 p.m., hog roast, music, dance, Sun. 7 a.m.-4 p.m., chicken dinner. Information: 765-932-2588.

St. Philip Neri Parish, 550 N. Rural St., **Indianapolis**. "Fall Dinner Theater," buffet dinner and "Queen of Bingo" play, Sat. 6 p.m., Sun. 2:30 p.m., \$25 per person. Information: 317-631-8746.

September 13

St. Augustine Parish, 315 E. Chestnut St., **Jeffersonville**. Harvest chicken dinner, quilts, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 812-282-2677.

St. Pius V Parish, Highway 66, **Troy**. "Fall Festival," 11 a.m.-5 p.m., dinners, games. Information: 812-547-7994.

September 18-19

St. Malachy Parish, 326 N. Green St., **Brownsburg**. "Country Fair and Hog Roast," 4 p.m.-11 p.m., food, booths, rides. Information: 317-852-3195.

St. Thomas More Parish, 1200 N. Indiana St., **Mooresville**. "Apple Fest," hog roast dinner, crafts, rides, Fri. 5 p.m.-10 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Information: 317-831-4142.

September 19

St. Lawrence Parish, 6944 E. 46th St., **Indianapolis**. "Fall Festival," food, games, music, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Information: 317-546-4065.

Holy Cross Parish, 12239 State Road 62, **St. Croix**. Rummage sale, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: 812-843-5701.

September 19-20

St. Philip Neri Parish, 550 N. Rural St., **Indianapolis**. "Fall Dinner Theater," buffet dinner and "Queen of Bingo" play, Sat. 6 p.m., Sun. 2:30 p.m., \$25 per person. Information: 317-631-8746.

September 20

St. Louis Parish, 13 E. St. Louis Place, **Batesville**. "Fall Festival," 11 a.m.-6 p.m., chicken and roast beef dinners, games. Information: 812-934-3204.

St. Meinrad Parish, Community Center, 13150 E. County Road 1950 N., **St. Meinrad**.

See FESTIVALS, page 14B

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Largest lizard

Two Komodo dragons live at Indianapolis Zoo this summer

By Mary Ann Wyand

In fairy tales, mythical dragons fly and “breathe” fire.

Komodo dragons, featured in the Indianapolis Zoo’s new summer exhibit, can’t fly and aren’t fire-breathing, but they are the world’s largest living lizards and their powerful bite is poisonous.

The endangered reptile that takes its name from Komodo Island in Indonesia can grow to be 10 feet long and weigh 200 pounds. Its tail is as long as its body.

The huge lizard has a long, forked, snakelike tongue as well as toxic saliva and 60 jagged teeth that are one-inch-long.

It swings its head from side to side while walking, and can kill large prey ranging from pigs and deer to water buffalo, which it can detect up to six miles away.

The dragon has a slow metabolism and eats by tearing large chunks of carrion flesh from an animal carcass, often consuming up to 80 percent of its body weight in one meal.

Not to worry though because zoo visitors can get a safe look at two Komodo dragons on loan from the Denver Zoo from Memorial Day through Labor Day. They will live in a special glass-walled exhibit in the Plains Biome of the zoo.

Richard Reams, a zoologist and the Deserts Biome manager, is excited about the opportunity to help care for Hudo and Dipsner, named for cities in Indonesia.

“As a person who loves reptiles and amphibians, it is fascinating to work with the largest lizard in the world,” Reams explained in a telephone interview.

“It’s a wonderful opportunity to have this beautiful lizard in captivity here at the Indianapolis Zoo for the public to view as well. It’s a unique opportunity for people to

see these animals.”

The dragons were born at the Denver Zoo, he said, and are accustomed to being cared for by zookeepers.

“They are predators and can be dangerous,” Reams said. “However, these two specimens are captive animals and are actually both docile. We work pretty closely with them.”

The dragons arrived in Indianapolis on March 15, he said, and are already acclimated to their temporary home.

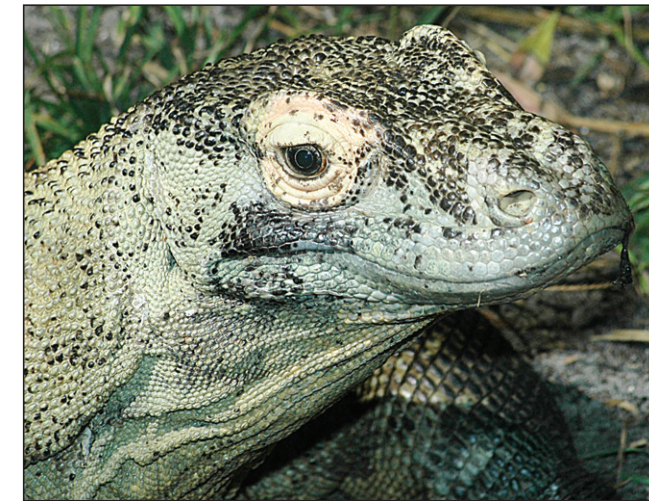
“Right now, they’re doing pretty well,” Reams said. “They will stay on exhibit all day long this summer, and the public can view them through the glass.”

About 95 percent of all types of lizards are under two feet long and only a few kinds of amphibians grow to five or six feet, he explained, so the Komodo dragon is a unique animal in its family group.

“Visitors can get a good idea of how big a Komodo dragon is then compare it to the lizard counterparts in the zoo’s Deserts Biome,” Reams said. “The Deserts building is full of various lizards and reptiles. Visitors can also get a good look at the Grand Cayman Blue Iguana, which is an endangered species of iguana that we breed here, and the bearded dragons, a smaller species of lizard.”

Children who like frogs, toads, snakes and chameleons will love watching the giant lizards, he said, because they are such unusual and amazing creatures.

(“Dragons of Komodo” is free for Indianapolis Zoo members and is included with the zoo’s regular admission fee. For more information, call 317-630-2001 or log on to www.indianapoliszoo.com.) †



Above, the Komodo Dragon, the largest lizard in the world, can grow up to 10 feet long. The giant reptile is a predator, and produces virulent bacteria in its saliva that helps kill its prey. The dragon is an endangered species.

Left, the huge lizard has a long, forked, snakelike tongue as well as 60 jagged teeth that are one inch long. It swings its head from side to side while walking, moves quickly and can kill large prey ranging from pigs and deer to water buffalo, which it can detect up to six miles away.

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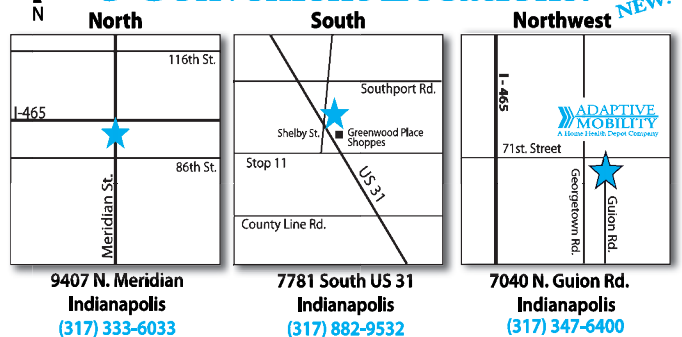
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BLOCK ISLAND

Island in North Atlantic preserves its historic charm

Story and photos by Mary Ann Wyand

BLOCK ISLAND—"No man is an island," insisted British poet and clergyman John Donne, but it's certainly fun to vacation on a small land mass surrounded by water.

When most people think of island getaways, their thoughts turn to fancy destination resorts in warm weather climates. The beautiful Hawaiian islands are popular with tourists as are the Florida Keys and other Caribbean locations.

So are scenic Chincoteague Island National Wildlife Refuge and Assateague Island National Park off the coast of Virginia, where wild horses roam freely, or trendy Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Island near the Massachusetts shoreline.

But few people probably think about vacationing on a small isle that is an hour's ferry ride from tiny Rhode Island.

An island in the North Atlantic Ocean doesn't sound all that warm and inviting, even during the summer months.

But when my daughter, Joan, told me about her fun weekend with friends on Block Island last summer, I suggested that we spend a day there last August when I visited her in Providence.

We boarded the Block Island Ferry at Point Judith, about an hour's drive from Providence, and watched the crew load cars, bicycles and freight on the boat.

A sunny sky and warm ocean breeze greeted us on deck as we leaned against the railing and enjoyed the feeling of waves rocking the boat on the 12-mile trip.

Soon we were docking at the historic 9.7-square-mile-long island, and its New England charm beckoned us to explore Old Harbor, a scenic town with gray clapboard buildings, then walk along the sometimes rocky shoreline.

My daughter brought her bicycle along, and I rented one on the island at a shop that also offered maps and motorbikes.

First, I took a picture of the famous statue of Rebecca, depicted holding an urn upside down because the Women's Christian Temperance Union barred alcohol on the island in the late 1800s.

After buying fresh fruit, cheese and other picnic items at a grocery store, we set out for the labyrinth

and lighthouse on the north end of the island at Sandy Point.

Joan knew her way around the island so we didn't get lost, but I was glad to stop for a little break to buy lemonade from a boy and his sister at their roadside stand.

Dozens of sailboats were moored along docks on the shore of the Great Salt Pond, a beautiful sight on a hot summer day.

We walked the labyrinth then decided not to pedal on to the restored North Light, but we could see the lighthouse along the shore. The Block Island National Wildlife Refuge encompasses Sandy Point.

Instead, we rode to the secluded Clayhead Beach on the east coast for our picnic and a chance to wade in the cold ocean waves. We were surprised to find starfish among the rocks in shallow water and delighted to discover wild raspberries ripe in bushes along the sandy trails.

By late afternoon, we also decided not to ride past the historic cemetery or the 125-year-old Southeast Lighthouse atop the bluffs. But we could see the majestic Mohegan Bluffs, which rise 250 feet above the rocky coast, in the distance.

Back at Old Harbor, we enjoyed iced tea, salsa and chips at an 1876 bar named "Yellow Kittens Tavern," then returned my bicycle. We had time to shop, and bought books, a sun hat and a box of saltwater taffy at several charming stores.

All the restaurants serve fresh seafood, of course, and we enjoyed tasty clam chowder and fried scallops for dinner before boarding the Block Island Ferry for the boat ride back to Point Judith and the drive back to Providence.

I often recall my fun day on Block Island, and want to vacation there again soon.

(For more information, call the Block Island Tourism Council at 800-383-2474 or log on to www.blockislandinfo.com.) †



As the Block Island Ferry nears the dock at Old Harbor, tourists can see the historic National Hotel and other clapboard buildings that line the coast. The island became part of the colony of Rhode Island in 1672, and was originally named "New Shoreham." A Dutch map that dates back to 1685 identifies the island as "Adriaen Blocks Eylant" for Dutch explorer Adrian Block.



McGovern's "Yellow Kittens Tavern" was established in Old Harbor in 1876 before the Women's Christian Temperance Union barred alcohol from the island in the late 1800s. The bar is a popular tourist destination.

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A variety of fresh seafood, including these lobsters, is served at the island restaurants.



Unusual rock formations line the beaches on scenic Block Island, a unique vacation destination. The ocean around Block Island has been the site of many shipwrecks.

Continued on next page.

A statue of Rebecca erected in Old Harbor by the Women's Christian Temperance Union serves as a reminder that alcohol was barred from the 9.7 square-mile-long island during the late 1800s.



Left, an angel statue greets visitors to the labyrinth on the north end of Block Island at Sandy Point.



Left, a stone marker erected by the Rhode Island Historical Society designates this location as the site of Harbor Bay and Harbor Pond, which were settled in 1707. Nathaniel Dodge, the first harbor master, held his post in 1715.

Right, starfish live among the rocks in the shallow water of the Atlantic Ocean at Clayhead Beach on Block Island.



Left, two girls play in the sand along the shoreline at Clayhead Beach on the east coast of Block Island on Aug. 1, 2008.

Right, Dutch Colonial architecture is featured among the historic buildings in Old Harbor on Block Island. Dutch and English settlers arrived on the island as early as 1661.



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North to Alaska

Largest state is beautiful vacation destination

By Cynthia Dewes
Special to The Criterion

Alaska was admitted as the 49th state in 1959, and is the largest state in the Union.

My husband, Ed, and I flew to Alaska in June, arriving in Fairbanks in early evening—but night by Indiana time.

The sun was out and it was a pleasant day, what we would call sweater weather.

The terrain resembled that in the northern part of the continental United States, with pine forests, streams and stark but grand open space.

At 3 a.m., the sun was still shining!

Welcome to a point about as far north as you can go in North America, except for the Northwest Territory.

After what seemed like an extremely short night, we took a bus to the University of Alaska campus, which is set high overlooking the town and its surrounding wilderness.

It was still sweater weather to us, about 65 degrees, but the natives must have thought it was a heat wave. They wore shorts and halter tops, and not just the kids.

The university has a wonderful museum of Alaskan culture, history and art. We learned about the Native Americans, the settling of the state and its major industries, including mining, commercial fishing and tourism. We even saw a grizzly bear up close and entirely too personal—but it was stuffed, thank goodness!

As dutiful tourists, we went to a salmon bake and attended the Golden Heart Revue in the saloon. It turned out to be charmingly unsophisticated and fun.

We also took a ride on the riverboat *Discovery* down the Chena River as far as



Tourists can visit the Husky Homestead of Jeff King, a four-time Iditarod winner and trainer of sled dogs. Alaskan huskies love to run, and are smaller, lighter and friskier than standard huskies.

its junction with the larger Tanana River.

Along the way, we visited an Athabasca Indian village, where a native woman demonstrated the art of sewing beadwork on clothing. This lady made a beaded chief's coat, which is now displayed at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.

We also took a daylong tour of Denali National Park in the northernmost range of the Rocky Mountains. Mount Denali—formerly Mount McKinley—is the highest peak in North America, and is often obscured by mists and clouds. We were lucky enough to be there on a beautifully clear day, and we could see this mountain all the time that we were in the park.

Only tours by park service school buses are allowed, and we had a great driver and guide. Like many of the folks we met, she is not a native Alaskan, but said when she visited the state she liked it so much that she stayed. Now she lives on Kodiak Island and trains sled dogs for the famous Iditarod race.

Our guide was full of funny stories as we went along admiring the sights.

She told us that the wooden sign marking Sable Pass is replaced constantly because bears chew on it. When we went around a hairpin turn called Polychrome Pass for its multicolored rocks, she said it's also called Poison Point because one drop will kill you!

She also told us that she and her neighbors are on a government "road kill list" to be given fresh moose meat taken from car accidents or confiscated illegally killed moose.

We visited the Husky Homestead of Jeff King, a four-time Iditarod winner and trainer of sled dogs. These dogs are Alaskan huskies, not the standard husky dog, and are smaller, lighter and friskier. They are friendly and love human companionship almost as much as they love to run.

King described the grueling, 1,150-mile Iditarod race. The driver starts with a maximum of 16 dogs and stops every six hours so the dogs can rest and eat. He said nine or 10 dogs are enough to race, but some of the huskies must drop out along the way because of injury or exhaustion. The driver gets little or no rest, and learns to sleep sitting up while driving the sled.

After completing the land portion of our trip, we took the train to Whittier and boarded our cruise ship for a high point of our trip, a tour of Glacier Bay, where huge glaciers run right down to the sea.

Our ship was too big to get up close, but the captain steered it slowly in a circle so that we could see the entire bay, which is about 10 miles wide at the glacier end and 50 miles long. It was truly an awesome sight, with a little humor added in seeing flocks of puffins and gulls basking on ice floes and looking like sunbathers at the



A scenic visit to Glacier Bay on board a tour boat gives tourists a close-up view of huge glaciers, which run down to the sea. Glacier Bay is about 10 miles wide at the glacier end and 50 miles long.

beach.

In Skagway, we visited the Red Onion Saloon and its former brothel upstairs.

Like our friends, St. Luke the Evangelist parishioners John and Marie Fink of Indianapolis, we enjoyed the train ride over the White Pass into Canada and back. (See John Fink's story on page 9B.)

We also went to Mendenhall Glacier and Ketchikan, where we learned about the significance of totem poles and portable lodges of the nomadic clans of Native Americans who lived along the waterways.

Before that, we toured Juneau, where the state government buildings look much humbler than those in other states. After oil was discovered in the Bering Sea, Alaska began receiving a financial windfall. As a result, the state has no income tax or sales tax. In addition, every man, woman or child who is born in, or who has lived in Alaska for two years or more, receives a couple thousand dollars annually.

Some of us went whale watching, others soared down the mountainside on a zip line, some watched logging demonstrations, and some observed moose, caribou, mountain sheep and other wild critters.

We ate salmon galore, rockfish chowder, caribou sausage and reindeer chili, and drank Moosehead beer.



A native woman demonstrates the art of sewing beadwork on clothing in an Athabasca Indian village. Her beaded chief's coat is now on display at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.



A ride on the riverboat *Discovery* down the Chena River as far as its junction with the larger Tanana River offers spectacular views of the beautiful state of Alaska.

The people were friendly, the atmosphere was casual, and my overall impression was that Alaska is one of the last really wild, free and beautiful places on Earth. It was a memorable trip, and we recommend the 49th state as a vacation destination.

(Cynthia Dewes is a member of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greencastle, and is a regular columnist for The Criterion.) †

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Alaskan cruise

Incredible views of land and sea captivate tourists

By John F. Fink
Special to *The Criterion*

When our friends, Ed and Cynthia Dewes of Bainbridge, vacationed in Alaska, their trip was more extensive than the Alaskan cruise that my wife, Marie, and I enjoyed because they went farther north and inland.

Our cruise was along the part of Alaska that hangs down the west coast of Canada. The northernmost point on our trip was the southern part of the great land mass that people think of when they visualize the state of Alaska.

Nevertheless, our cruise on the Inside Passage from Vancouver to Skagway and back was one of the nicest cruises that we have taken throughout the world.

The weather at the end of August and during the first few days in September couldn't have been finer, and we were able to take full advantage of the cities where we stopped along the way.

Vancouver, British Columbia, is a wonderful city. Our itinerary included a sight-seeing tour of the city before we boarded our cruise ship, and time to explore the city on our own after we returned. But that's another story.

Our first stop on the cruise was Ketchikan, a picturesque city of 13,500 people, a bit spread out along the coast but only about two blocks wide. Majestic mountains are visible in the background, with snow on the peaks, but the temperatures in Ketchikan were in the 70s all day.

Since it was a Sunday, our first activity was to find the Catholic church in Ketchikan in time for the 8:30 a.m. Mass. Our cab had to negotiate some very steep hills to get us to Holy Name Church, a modern church with a panoramic view of the mountains through

windows in the sanctuary. The gorgeous view was somewhat distracting, though, during the Mass.

Ketchikan is known for its nearby Misty Fiords National Park. A fiord is a long, narrow and often deep inlet from the sea with steep cliffs on both sides. These particular fiords are called "misty" because rain, mist and fog usually shroud them. Ketchikan gets a lot of rain. We were told that there had been only seven days that summer when it didn't rain.

There was no rain when we were there, though. We flew in a 10-passenger pontoon "bush" plane to the Misty Fiords. We took off from the harbor near our ship, and reached an elevation of about 2,000 to 4,000 feet among the peaks of the mountains and cliffs that rise over 3,000 feet from sea level. We could see how they drop to the water below. It was spectacular!

We flew over three inlets named George, Carrol and Thorne Arm. The Forest Service has built recreation cabins on more than 100 lakes, including Ella Lake and Big Goat Lake.

At Big Goat Lake, which is 1,775 feet above sea level, a waterfall plunges nearly 1,000 feet into Rudyard Bay. The lakes were created by melting glaciers.

Our plane landed on Nooya Lake, which is about 800 feet deep and surrounded by the sheer cliffs. We stood on the plane's wings, and marveled at the sights and the silence.

On the flight back, the pilot flew for a while at about 50 feet above the water in the various inlets to give us an idea of the way that pilots have to fly there about 80 percent of the time. Because of the usual rain and fog, our pilot said, they have to fly close to the water because they can't see the cliffs.

Our ship's next stop was in Juneau, Alaska's capital. It's the only state capital that you can't drive to since it's on an island and there's no bridge. Like Ketchikan, it's spread out along the shore with a huge mountain rising straight up behind the city. The temperature was about 60 when we got up in the morning, but warmed up to about 80 later in the day. We were told that was unusual because high temperatures in the summer are usually 60 to 65.

We took a helicopter flight to Mendenhall Glacier. This massive river of ice moves down the mountain at about two feet a day. We landed on the glacier at about its midway point, where it's about 300 feet deep, although it has been melting. Unless there is a change in the climate, the glacier will eventually disappear. We walked around in "moon boots" that gave us traction on the ice.

The helicopter flew us to the peak of the glacier, where we could see several tributaries pouring into the main



Beautiful views of majestic mountain ranges, like Mount Denali, form a backdrop for vacation destinations in Alaska. Denali National Park is located in the northernmost range of the Rocky Mountains. Mount Denali was formerly named Mount McKinley, and is the highest peak in North America. Its peak is often obscured by mists and clouds.

glacier—if you can call moving two feet a day "pouring."

Skagway is a little village at the north end of the Inside Passage. During the Klondike Gold Rush from 1889 to 1918, it had about 10,000 residents, but today it has only about 700 permanent residents.

During the Gold Rush, the quickest way to get to the Klondike, 600 miles north of Skagway, was by steamer from Seattle to Skagway then over either the Chilkoot or White Pass trails to get over the mountains and then on to Lake Bennett, where the prospectors built boats for a 500-mile journey down the Yukon River to the gold fields. It was grueling, to say the least.

In 1898, work began on a railroad over White Pass, although surveys showed that it couldn't be done. The completed railroad climbed from sea level in Skagway to 2,865 feet at the summit, with grades as steep as 3.9 percent. Workers had to hang suspended by ropes from vertical granite cliffs, chipping away with picks and planting dynamite to blast through the mountains. With the deaths of "only" 35 men, the track reached the summit on Feb. 18, 1899, and by July 6 of that year construction reached the headwaters of the Yukon River at Lake Bennett.

We rode that railroad in a vintage 1890s parlor car. The track more or less follows the Skagway River, which flows from the summit down to the ocean—all whitewater, of course. As the train climbed along the gray rock cliffs that rise almost straight up, though, the river was well below us.

We went through a tunnel that had been

hand drilled and blasted. We went past a steel bridge constructed in 1901, then the tallest cantilever in the world. To say that it was a fascinating ride is an understatement.

After the ride back down, we explored Skagway. It's seven blocks long and two blocks wide, and it looks like a town right out of the movies. The wood buildings were built during the Gold Rush days. There are wooden plank sidewalks, and horses and carriages are in the streets. There's an old-time barber shop, a saloon, an old newspaper office, an old-fashioned looking hotel and other sites from yesteryear.

On our cruise back, we stopped at Wrangell, a small town of 2,300 people near the center of the Alaska Panhandle. It's named for Baron Ferdinand Petrovich Wrangell, a scientist, explorer and manager of the Russian American Company in the 18th century. Residents boast that it is the only Alaskan town to be under three flags—Russian, British and American. Today, the timber industry is the town's major employer.

Cruising on the Inside Passage is much more like cruising in a lake than in the ocean. It always appears that you're surrounded by mountains and trees. The water is smooth like glass because there's no surf pounding on the shore.

Of course, there were daily lectures about Alaska, its history and its people, including the Eskimos and Tlingit Indians.

I thought the cruise was fantastic even if we didn't get farther north.

(John F. Fink is a member of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis and is the editor emeritus of *The Criterion*.) †



The Red Onion Saloon is located in Skagway, a little village at the north end of the Inside Passage. During the Klondike Gold Rush from 1889 to 1918, it had about 10,000 residents. Today, it has only about 700 permanent residents. Skagway is seven blocks long and two blocks wide, and it looks like a town right out of the movies. The wood buildings were built during the Gold Rush days, and there are wooden plank sidewalks, an old-time barber shop, a saloon, an old newspaper office, an old-fashioned looking hotel and other sites from yesteryear.

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ST. PAUL

continued from page 1A

Greece to the southern Peloponnesian peninsula. The Corinth Canal, completed in the late 19th century, was an idea and dream dating back more than 2,000 years.

In Paul's time, before the canal was built, ships had to travel around the Peloponnese, an additional 185 nautical miles and several more days of sea travel.

Paul likely also saw the "Diolkos," a movable platform constructed on a stone path that crossed the isthmus. Ships were lifted onto these wheeled vehicles and transported across the isthmus. The pilgrims saw parts of the paved stone path.

Ancient attempts to construct a canal never succeeded. It was eventually completed in 1893.

Corinth was an important city in ancient Greece and played a major role in Paul's missionary work.

The Apostle visited Corinth in the 50s A.D., and later wrote two letters to the Church at Corinth, preserved as First and Second Corinthians. At the time that Paul first visited the city in 51 or 52 A.D., Gallio, the brother of the Roman historian Seneca, was governor of Corinth. Paul lived in Corinth for 18 months (Acts 18:1-18), working as a tentmaker and converting many Jews and pagans. He met Aquila and Priscilla, tentmakers who later became missionaries.

In all likelihood, it was during a second visit to Corinth in the spring of 58 A.D. that Paul wrote his Epistle to the Romans.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians, written in Ephesus, described the difficulties of a Christian community trying to remain faithful in a cosmopolitan city. The pilgrims felt empathy for Paul and his challenges as a missionary.

In the ruins of ancient Corinth is the fountain of Peirene, the major source of water for Corinth.

A Temple of Apollo was built on a hill overlooking the remains of the "agora," the Roman marketplace. Seven of the temple's original 38 Doric columns still stand, and it is one of the oldest stone temples in Greece. Also among the ruins is the *Bema*, the public platform where Paul pled his case before Gallio in 52 A.D.

The following day, the pilgrims toured Athens, and viewed the Royal Palace, Stadium and Temple of Zeus. The Theatre of Dionysius was a major open-air theater in ancient Greece. It was built at the foot of the Acropolis and is the first stone theater. The pilgrims saw the remains of a restored and redesigned Roman version of this theater, the birthplace of the Greek tragedy.

The group also visited the Aeropagus, a bald marble hill across from and northwest of the Acropolis entrance. In classical times, the Aeropagus functioned as the chief homicide court of Athens. Paul delivered his famous speech there about the identity of the "unknown God" (Acts 17), defending his teaching of a known God.

The group proceeded to the Acropolis and the Parthenon, the most well-known surviving building of ancient Greece and one of the most famous buildings in the world. The Parthenon has stood atop the Acropolis for nearly 2,500 years. It was built to give thanks to Athena,



St. Charles Borromeo parishioners Joan and Thomas Rillo of Bloomington pose for a photograph in front of the Library of Celsus at Ephesus in present-day Turkey during the Saint Meinrad pilgrimage to Greece, the Greek Isles and Turkey in March.

the city's patron goddess, for the salvation of Athens and Greece in the Persian Wars. To the left of the Parthenon are the Temple of Athena Nike and the Porch of the Maidens.

The next day, the pilgrims began a three-day cruise of the Aegean Sea and Greek Isles. After stopping at the scenic Greek isle of Mykonos in the Cyclades, the ship set sail for Rhodes in stormy weather with rough seas.

The pilgrims felt closer to Paul because they experienced a storm at sea, and he was shipwrecked on his journeys.

On the Isle of Patmos, the pilgrims visited the Monastery of St. John, which contains the site where John received inspiration to write the Book of Revelation. John had his vision and wrote the apocalypse in a cave called the Grotto. John described the vision to his disciple Prochorous as it was unfolded to him. The Romans used the Isle of Patmos as a place for exiles, and that is why John ended up there.

That afternoon, the ship set sail for Kusadasi, Turkey, and the pilgrims embarked on an excursion to Ephesus, a significant center for early Christianity. Paul likely preached there, an ancient city that has been inhabited for several millennia.

The Romans made Ephesus a provincial capital, and it grew to be a great commercial trading center of political



These stone ruins of the agora, the marketplace at Corinth, Greece, have survived for 2,000 years.

importance.


A significant Christian community developed there. St. John the Evangelist likely preached there in the first century.

Paul lived in Ephesus for two years and wrote some of his letters there.

The pilgrims walked the marble streets to see the fabled Temple of Artemis, a wonder of the ancient world, and the Library of Celsus. The ruins were magnificent and gave the group a feeling of the importance of this cosmopolitan center during Paul's time. The public baths as well as the Temple of Love were proof of the people's immorality that Paul faced there.

Just a few kilometers away in Selchuk are many historical remains of early Christianity, including a house that a tradition says was the home of the Virgin Mary, and Ayasoluk Hill, where St. John wrote his Gospel.

Continued on next page



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The House of Mary is sacred to Muslim and Christian pilgrims, including popes Paul VI, John Paul II and Benedict XVI. The Saint Meinrad pilgrims were touched by this holy edifice.

According to tradition, Mary was brought to Ephesus by the Apostle John after the resurrection of Christ. The building dates to the sixth or seventh century A.D. The foundations may date to the first century A.D., the time of Mary.

The pilgrims then returned to the ship for the cruise back to Athens. Upon their return, they traveled to Thebes, Livadia, the picturesque mountain village of Arachova, and to Delphi.

For the ancient Greeks, Delphi was the center of the world. The pilgrims walked among the ruins of Delphi to see the Temple of Apollo, the Theatre, the Athenian treasury and the Castalian Spring.

In the Kalambaka area, the pilgrims traveled to Meteora to see the hanging monasteries perched on top of unusual rock formations. The monasteries were built atop the high cliffs so the monks and nuns could grow closer to God through solitude and prayer as well as be protected from invading Ottoman Turks.

Of the original 24 monasteries, only six remain occupied. All are perched on natural rock pillars at the edge of the Pindus Mountains in northern Greece. The pilgrims were permitted to enter the Monastery of St. Stephen, home to Greek Orthodox nuns.

At Trikala, the pilgrims saw the construction and painting of icons, a vital part of the Greek Orthodox prayer life.

The pilgrims also traveled to Thessaloniki and Philippi, where Paul first preached in Europe and baptized a woman named Lydia (Acts 16:14-15), Europe's first convert to Christianity.

Father Jeremy was the celebrant for Mass, and blessed the group with water from the stream that Paul used to baptize Lydia. A baptistry there has beautiful mosaics and stained-glass windows.

Philippi, an ancient city in eastern Macedonia, was founded by Philip II in 356 B.C. The ancient ruins there of a Roman Forum, market and early basilicas were impressive. The prison where Paul was flogged, imprisoned and later released (Acts 16:16-40) was in good condition.

Paul visited the city around 50 A.D. during his second missionary journey. He wrote his Letter to the Philippians about five years later.

The Apostle traveled to the city of Berea after leaving Philippi (Acts 17:12).

The pilgrims returned to Athens via the Valley of Temp and Themopylae then departed for New York the next day.

Brother Maurus said the pilgrimage made reading the New Testament and especially St. Paul's letters come alive.

Father Jeremy appreciated the opportunities to celebrate outdoor Masses at sites important to the history of the Church. He also celebrated Mass on a pitching and rolling ship during the height of a storm, and at one of the few Roman Catholic churches in Greece, the Cathedral of Virgin Mary's Immaculate Conception of Thessaloniki.

The pilgrims learned that the footsteps of St. Paul were long and hard, and called us to imitate them in whatever manner we can to evangelize in Christ's name.

(Thomas J. Rillo is a member of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington, and a Benedictine oblate of Saint Meinrad Archabbey.) †



St. Paul the Apostle was imprisoned here in Philippi. His prison has been preserved for nearly 2,000 years.



Above, pilgrims wait to tour the interior of St. John's Grotto on the Isle of Patmos as part of Saint Meinrad Archabbey's March 3-13 pilgrimage to holy sites associated with St. Paul the Apostle.

Left, this statue of the Blessed Virgin is outside the House of Mary in Ephesus, which is located in present-day Turkey. The pilgrims toured the site—believed to be Mary's last residence—during their pilgrimage to Greece, the Greek Isles and Turkey in March.



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Class of 1976
Our Lady of Lourdes Alumni Coordinator

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Fun and affordable

For a truly varied vacation, visit Wisconsin

By Cynthia Dewes
Special to The Criterion

To most of us, Wisconsin may seem like an inviting travel destination, and for me it has the added attraction of being home to many members of my family.

For all of us in Indiana, when gasoline prices are high it's an economical and fun place to go on vacation.

Scandinavians make up a large part of Wisconsin's population, including my Norwegian Lutheran relatives, who attend one of the many typical and picturesque country churches in their west-central area.

But Wisconsin has more to offer than Norwegian bachelor farmers and lutefisk, which is probably a plus in the minds of many tourists.

One of my favorite places to stop is Lena and Ole's Gift Store in Woodville. Here you may find all manner of Scandinavian and other European items, ranging from Christmas candles, fine china and lace table runners to *krumkake* irons and *lefse* mixes. It's where I annually stock up on nostalgia.

Nearby is the Cady Creek Cheese Factory and Shoppe, where you may purchase all-natural cheeses of every variety. No surprise, since Wisconsin is well-known for its dairy farming. The organic food movement has really caught on there in other types of farming as well.

"The Western Wisconsin Farm Fresh Atlas," found at www.farmfreshatlas.org, provides a long list of locally grown fresh produce, meats, honey, maple syrup, herbs and flowers, most of them organic and all for sale.



Ed and Cynthia Dewes, members of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greencastle, admire a log cabin built around a tree at a vacation resort near Hayward, Wis. They live in a contemporary log cabin near Bainbridge.

Farther down the road near Spring Valley, the rolling farmland turns to wooded ravines and creeks. Here you find Crystal Cave, advertised as "Wisconsin's Longest Cave Underground." When I was taken there as a pre-school student, it sure seemed to be exactly that.

Wisconsin is also known for its hunting, fishing, boating and many other outdoor opportunities for fun in any season.

Door County is a peninsula in the northeast corner of the state, lying between Green Bay and Lake Michigan. It's a popular tourist destination as is Washington Island offshore, reached by a daily ferry boat. Towns such as Sister Bay, Fish Creek and Egg Harbor line the peninsula, offering cabins and other vacation accommodations, restaurants and sporting equipment rentals.

One popular event is the Fish Boil, in which potatoes, onions, codfish or other white fish are boiled in a gigantic kettle outdoors and laddled onto eager diners' plates.

Further south and west is Wisconsin Dells, another popular tourist spot and venue for weddings and honeymoons. In fact, my parents were married there long ago. It's like Myrtle Beach West, with every kind of resort, dining, entertainment attraction and shopping imaginable, most of it family-oriented.

When our kids were young, we used to stay nearby in Pioneer Park, a family campground which offered a large outdoor swimming pool. Wisconsin may be cold in the winter, but it can be terribly hot in the summer, and the pool was the family-on-a-budget's answer to cooling off in the heat. Children will also love the gorgeous but expensive water park in town.

Of course, Wisconsin Dells is most famous for its beautiful site on the Wisconsin River, including the dells—lined with impressive rock formations—and Lake Delton. *The Original Wisconsin Ducks* and other boats are available to take visitors on tours of the scenic wilderness.

Wisconsin offers a different kind of beauty in the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, a famous architect who is a native of the state. His home, Taliesin, and the FLW Architectural School occupy a 600-acre estate near the Wisconsin River valley town of Spring Green. The home was renovated twice after fires, but still displays the cantilevered roof, large windows, great room with huge fireplace, and open floor plan that mark Wright's distinctive style.



Sailing in Green Bay in Lake Michigan is a fun recreational activity during a vacation in Wisconsin. Door County, a peninsula in the northeast corner of the state, is located between Green Bay and Lake Michigan. The scenic peninsula and Washington Island offshore, which is reached by a daily ferry boat, are popular tourist destinations.



The Seth Peterson Cottage, dedicated in 1992 in Mirror Lake State Park, was designed by noted architect Frank Lloyd Wright, who was a native of Wisconsin. It is located seven miles southwest of Wisconsin Dells, another popular vacation site. Today, the cottage is the only Frank Lloyd Wright property in the U.S. that is available for vacation rental.

Another Wright project is the Seth Peterson Cottage, located seven miles southwest of Wisconsin Dells, which we happened to visit by chance on the day it was dedicated as part of Mirror Lake State Park in 1992.

The cottage was one of Wright's last commissions, built in 1958 for a young man who was a great admirer of the then-90-year-old architect. Peterson's untimely death left the cottage in the hands of others until it finally fell into disrepair in 1966. Today, the cottage is the only Wright property available for vacation rental.

According to a Wisconsin Heritage brochure, the cottage contains "more architecture per square foot than any building Wright ever built."

Other Wright creations include the S.C. Johnson (wax) headquarters in Racine, and buildings in Milwaukee, Richland Center and Madison.

Wisconsin indeed contains many more interesting things in addition to Lena and Ole jokes, and herds of placid cows. This summer might just be the time to give it a try.

(Cynthia Dewes is a member of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greencastle, and is a regular columnist for The Criterion.) †

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Festival scout

Catholic shares his 'Unofficial Guide to Enjoying Parish Festivals'

By John Shaughnessy

As he shares his "Unofficial Guide to Enjoying Parish Festivals," Nick Wehlage has already begun to lick his lips at the thought of savoring a Gusburger at Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis.

And he smiles just thinking about listening to the band Polka Boy fill a moonlit night with lively music at the St. Christopher Parish "Midsummer Festival" in Indianapolis.

And when he manages to get past salivating about the fried ravioli and fettuccine that are among the mouth-watering choices at the "Italian Street Festival" at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis, Wehlage turns reverent as he talks about the one moment that he believes every parish festival-loving Catholic should experience—the religious procession which takes place at the "Italian Street Festival" on Saturday evening along Stevens Street and into Holy Rosary Church before the 7 p.m. Mass.

"That's worth going for alone," says Wehlage, who is a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis and previously was a longtime member of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis.

"They carry this big statue of Mary on a platform down the street," he explains. "Little girls walk in their white First Communion dresses. They let go [of] green, red and white balloons. If you ask my wife, that's the best thing about the festival. That touch makes you know it's a Catholic festival."

Wehlage enjoys parish festivals so much that he has been visiting about 10 of them each year for nearly 15 years. He even plans his summer schedule by marking certain festival dates on a calendar. So it seemed natural—and fun—to ask him to offer his insights for what can be called "One Catholic's Unofficial Guide to Enjoying Parish Festivals in Indianapolis."

"Festivals are a Catholic tradition," Wehlage says. "They're fun and a form of fairly cheap entertainment. A lot of parishes use them to raise money, but it goes beyond that. It's outreach."

Another attraction of parish festivals for Wehlage is the friends he meets at the different events. He also has a regular group of people he attends festivals with, including his wife, Mary Ann Alexander, and two longtime friends, Peter Goerner and Steve Georgescu.

"Getting a group of friends together always makes it fun," Wehlage says.

Here are some of his thoughts about his favorite festivals—listed in the order they will occur during this season when great food, lively music and friendly people fill parish grounds across central and southern Indiana.

• **St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Parish Festival, May 29-31**—"There's a family tie to this one for me because I have a cousin who works there," Wehlage says. "The food is good, especially the corn. They have music, some rides and an auction. It's good when festivals have things that make you stay and look around. This is a nice one."



Submitted photo
Enjoying parish festivals is part of the summer fun for Mary Ann Alexander and Nick Wehlage, a married couple who are members of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis. They even plan part of their summer schedule by marking certain festival dates on their calendar.



In this file photo taken on June 14, 2004, seminarian Sean Danda of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg leads the Marian procession along Stevens Street to Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church in Indianapolis during the "Italian Street Festival." Deacon Danda will be ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein on June 27 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

• **St. Simon the Apostle Parish Festival, June 4-6, and St. Jude Parish "Summer Festival," June 25-27**—Wehlage combines these festivals—St. Simon on the north side of Indianapolis and St. Jude on the south side—for this reason: Two of the largest parishes in the archdiocese hold two of the biggest festivals, with a lot of similarities.

"They're both monster large," says Wehlage, who returns to his roots for the St. Jude Festival. "They have a lot of everything—rides, food, music. This year is also St. Jude's 50th anniversary as a parish."

• **Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish "Italian Street Festival," June 12-13**—"This one sets the standard for all festivals," Wehlage says. He has already raved about the festival's religious procession on Saturday evening. He gives equally glowing reviews of the homemade Italian food.

"The food is all good. You have to plan how you eat. You have to make sure you don't get filled up on one thing. The fried ravioli is good, so is the Italian sausage, the fettuccine, the . . ."

The list goes on and on for the celebration at the parish that marks its 100th anniversary this year.

"Holy Rosary is always a two-nighter for me,"

Wehlage says.

• **St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish "International Festival," June 12-14**—After two nights at the Holy Rosary festival, Wehlage still attends St. Gabriel's "International Festival" on the same weekend.

"It's fun," Wehlage says. "There's such diversity in that parish that it makes it good. A lot of the food is made by parishioners. They have Chinese food, Mexican food, a beer garden, rides and music. It's one of those festivals that is manageable, too."

• **Christ the King Parish "Summer Social," June 26-27**—"I really like this one," says Wehlage, who is an assistant coach for the varsity girls' basketball team at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis, which is across the street from Christ the King Church.

"They have a lot of kids' games, a garage sale and music,

too," he says. "I like the set-up of this festival. All the booths and food are on the outside, and the tables are in the middle. You see a lot more people because of that. I also like this one because I get to see a lot of girls from the team and their parents. And you have to have a Gusburger. It's named after a guy who ran the booth for a long time [the late Gus Jones, a longtime parishioner and parish festival volunteer]."

• **Holy Spirit Parish Festival, July 9-11**—"This is another one I really like," Wehlage explains. "It's one of the older festivals. It has good food, a beer garden, a garage sale and rides. They have a great steak sandwich there as I remember."

"One thing that's interesting is that the parish got an infusion of Hispanics because of the way the Eastside has developed. Peter and I were watching Hispanic dance lessons in the beer garden one year."

• **St. Christopher Parish 70th annual "Midsummer Festival," July 16-18**—"It's been around forever," Wehlage says. "They have great music. They have [the band] Polka Boy play there. That brings in a huge crowd. That's the best festival band you can get. They're clean, they're good and they're entertaining."

• **St. Thomas Aquinas Parish "Sausage Fest," Aug. 21-22**—"A really good festival," Wehlage says. "This will be its fifth year. It's held the first weekend the kids are back to school. They reach out to the Butler [University] students, too. They have music and kids' games, but they stand for sausage and beer, and they do both of them very well."

• **St. Joan of Arc Parish "French Market," Sept. 12**—"It's the last festival on my schedule. And it's just one day. I love the set-up and I love the food. They have the absolute best music. It starts at noon and goes to 10 [p.m.]. The food is great, too, but get there for lunch. That's when they still have everything."

Obviously, Wehlage doesn't visit every parish festival in Indianapolis or the archdiocese. So check the listing of parish festivals that begins on page 3B, choose a few to attend and prepare for a good time. †



Polka Boy band members perform during the St. Christopher Parish "Midsummer Festival" on July 23, 2004.

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- A place to call home—Rescued exotic cats are Joe Taft's pride and joy near Center Point

May 2007:

- 'Restart Your Engines'—Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs are fun places to relax
- Prehistoric pathways—Glaciers carved giant rocks at Turkey Run State Park
- Incredible journey—Family vacation includes nine national parks or



Members of the Circle City Sidewalk Stompers Clown Band perform on the streets during the Indiana State Fair in Indianapolis in August 2005.

monuments

May 2008:

- Kentucky's 'Holy Land'—Bardstown played key role in growth of U.S. Church
- Get back to nature—Outdoor activities abound in Bloomington area

To view our older issues, log on to www.CriterionOnline.com and look under "Online only features" near the top or scroll to the bottom of our home page to the "Special Supplements" section. †



Hikers admire the massive rock formations at Turkey Run State Park near Marshall in scenic Parke County. The temperature is considerably cooler while walking in the rocky ravines that date back to prehistoric times.

FESTIVALS

continued from page 4B

September 20

"Fall Festival," 10 a.m.-6 p.m., food, games, quilts. Information: 812-357-5533.

September 23

St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish, 3856 Martin Road, **Floyds Knobs**. "Dessert and Card Party," 7 p.m.-10 p.m., \$5 per person. Information: 812-923-3011.

September 25-26

SS. Francis and Clare Parish, 5901 Olive Branch Road, **Greenwood**. Parish festival, Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sat. noon-midnight, rides, games, music, food. Information: 317-859-4673.

September 26

St. Rita Parish, 1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., **Indianapolis**. "Taste of St. Rita," 6 p.m.-10 p.m., food, silent auction, \$30 per person. Information: 317-632-9349.

September 27

St. Mark Parish, 5377 Acom Road, **Tell City**. Parish festival, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., shooting match, quilts, games. Information: 812-836-2481.

St. Michael Parish, 11400 Farmers Lane, N.E., **Bradford**. Parish festival, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m., chicken dinner served, 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m., dinner, booths, games. Information: 812-364-6646.

October 3

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1723 I St., **Bedford**. "Oktoberfest," polka Mass and fall festival, Mass, 5 p.m., German dinner, 6-7:30 p.m., games, 6-9 p.m. Information: 812-275-6539.

October 4

Holy Family Parish, 3027 Pearl St., **Oldenburg**. Parish festival, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., chicken and roast beef dinners, booths, games. Information: 812-934-3013.

October 10

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, 4052 E. 38th St., **Indianapolis**. "St. Andrew Fest," homecoming, Mass, 4:30 p.m., fried chicken, music, games, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Information: 317-546-1571.

October 18

St. Isidore the Farmer Parish, 6501 St. Isidore Road, **Bristow**. "Fall Festival and Shooting Match," 11 a.m., food, games. Information: 812-843-5713. †

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Food items listed: Ravioli, Sauce Stand, Antipasta Salads, Fresh Bread, Beer, Italian Ice, Fettuccine, Tortellini, Pasta, Italian Sausage, Wines, Meatball Sandwiches, Bread Sticks, Pizza, Vegetable Lasagna, Cannolis, Lasagna Roll Ups, Pastries.

• Saturday June 13th, Mass at 4:30 p.m. and Colorful Italian Religious Procession at 6:45 p.m., Followed by 2nd Mass in the church at 7:00 p.m. The Master's Chorale of Indianapolis will be singing at both Masses.

'The Mighty A'

USS Alabama is moored at Mobile as naval museum

By Mary Ann Wyand

MOBILE, Ala.—Return to your roots for a memorable vacation this summer. Research your family's history then plan a trip to a city or special location that has personal connections for your parents or grandparents.

My father, Paul L. Travis of Plymouth, Ind., was killed in a work-related accident in northern Indiana when I was only 3 years old, but I have pictures of him in his Navy uniform and several mementos from his three years of military service during World War II.

He served on the *USS Alabama* in both the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets with the rank of Seaman 1st Class.

The *USS Alabama* is permanently moored at Battleship Park in Mobile Bay, where it is open to the public with other ships, planes and a submarine at the naval museum.

With several relatives, I toured the massive ship on March 25, 2008, and found the experience to be quite emotional—especially when I saw my father's name on the list of sailors and Marines who served on "The Mighty A."

Notes written inside his tattered copy of *The Bluejackets Manual 1940* listed his active duty assignments.

Historical accounts of the battleship's destinations recorded in several books sold in the museum gift shop gave me an even clearer picture of his rigorous life at sea.

I learned that the battleship was launched on Feb. 16, 1942, and commissioned exactly six months later.

The ship served in the North Atlantic until August 1943, when it crossed through the Panama Canal and joined the Pacific Fleet.

Sailors on board the *USS Alabama* shot down 22 enemy planes as part of both the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets. They also joined in six bombardments of Japanese strongholds, and earned nine battle stars for their ship and the nickname "Hero of the Pacific."

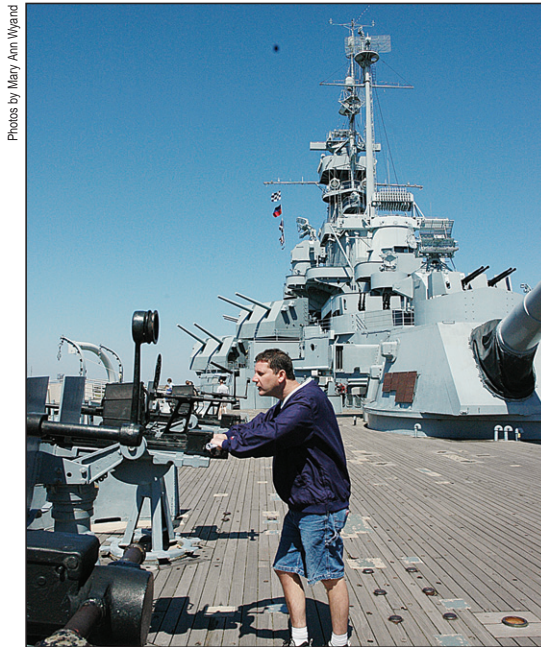
The ship cruised at 28 knots, or 32 miles an hour, and carried 2,500 men in wartime and 1,785 men in times of peace.

I thought about how my father worked, ate and slept on board the battleship as it sailed on the high seas around the world. It was an honor to tour the ship, and I felt humbled to think that by the grace of God he had made it home safely from the war in which so many brave service men and women gave up their lives for their country.

One of the historical books about the ship featured "remembrances of things past by the men who made her mighty."

It was nice to read heroic stories preserved for posterity by some of the men who surely knew my father.

(For more information about the *USS Alabama*, log on to www.ussalabama.com.) †



Above, military chaplains presided at Masses and Protestant services in this small chapel below the main deck of the *USS Alabama* during World War II.

Left top, St. Michael the Archangel parishioner Dan Roth of Plymouth, Ind., in the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese, examines a large gun on the deck of the *USS Alabama*, which is moored along the shore at Mobile, Ala., and serves as a naval museum. His grandfather, Seaman First Class Paul L. Travis, served in the U.S. Navy on board the battleship for three years during World War II.

Bottom left, historic photographs of the *USS Alabama* are part of the museum exhibits on board the battleship, which saw action with the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets during World War II.

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Summer Festival

Thursday, June 4th 5 pm - 11 p.m.
Friday, June 5th 5 pm - Midnight
Saturday, June 6th 2 pm - Midnight
Sunday, June 7th Noon - 9 p.m.

FAMILY DINNERS

Italian Dinner
Thursday 5:00—7:30 pm

Fish Fry
Friday 5:00—7:30 pm

Pork Chop Dinner
Saturday 4:00—7:30 pm

Fried Chicken
Sunday Noon—3:00 pm

Children 6 and under eat FREE when accompanied by an Adult

SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS

Poor Jack
Amusement Rides
Bracelet Day Sunday
Ride all Rides for
One Price
Noon-5:00 pm

- Live Entertainment
- Bingo
- Monte Carlo
- Cake Wheel
- Spin & Win
- Children's Games

Flea Market

Thousands of Unique Items

Silent Auction

One-of-a-kind Items
Bidding closes Sunday at 6 pm

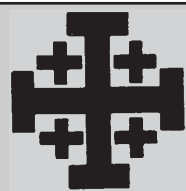
Food to Satisfy EVERY Taste

- ♦ Tacos
- ♦ Elephant Ears
- ♦ Corn on the Cob
- ♦ Barbeque Pulled Pork
- ♦ Hamburgers, Hot dogs, and Brats
- ♦ Curly Fries
- ♦ Corn Dogs
- ♦ Pizza
- ♦ Lemonade Shake Ups
- ♦ Ice Cream & Strawberries

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"SHARE THE JACKPOT" Donation: \$5/Ticket
1st Prize - 25% of Jackpot (\$2500 Minimum Payout)
2nd Prize - 10% of Jackpot
3rd Prize - 5% of Jackpot

QUILT RAFFLE - \$2.00/Ticket or 3 Tickets for \$5.00
Handmade Quilt - "Aunt Grace" Pattern with Matching Pillows
Drawings will be Sunday at 9:00 pm



Pilgrimage trips conducted by

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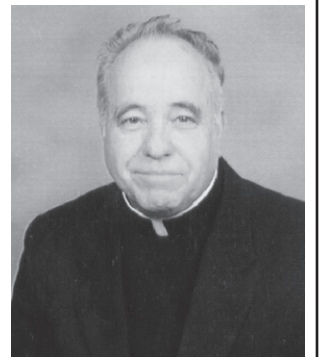
Sponsored by Catholic Shrine Pilgrimage, a Catholic Non-Profit Organization

Featured Trip

FRANCE with Fr. Leo Hayes, Ava, Ill. Join us for eleven days from Chicago to Paris, Normandy, and Lourdes. Major sites include Lourdes Shrine, St. Therese Little Flower Shrine at Lisieux, Eiffel Tower, Paris Notre Dame Basilica Cathedral, Rue de Bac Miraculous Medal Shrine, and American Military Cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach. Most sightseeing included; options available for Paris Illuminations by Night and Chartres day trip. Fully escorted, with round trip airfare, hotels, sightseeing, dinners, breakfasts.

Oct. 19 to 29, 2009

Priced at \$2,458



2009 & 2010 Trips

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- 8 days in August, 2009 from \$2,025 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sorrento/So Italy & Amalfi Coast
- 9 days in November, 2009 \$2,038 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Switzerland
- 9 days in October, 2009 \$2,362 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sicily/Rome - 12 days in November, 2009 \$2,665 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> France - 11 days in October, 2009 \$2,458 | <input type="checkbox"/> Barcelona & Med Cruise
- 12 days in November, 2009 from \$2,518 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florence, Rome & Assisi
- 11 days in November, 2009 \$2,588 | <input type="checkbox"/> Three-Star Rome & Assisi
- 9 days in November, 2009 \$2,138 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Egypt & Nile River Cruise
- 9 days in November, 2009 \$2,688 | <input type="checkbox"/> Hawaiian Islands Cruise
- 8 days in January, 2010 from \$2,569 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holy Lands
- 10 days in Nov., 2009 & Mar., 2010 \$2,988 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mexico City/Guadalupe Shrine
- 8 days in February, 2010 \$1,740 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poland - 10 days in November, 2009 \$2,378 | <input type="checkbox"/> Germany & Austria
- 10 days in May, 2010 \$2,392 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greece - 9 days in November, 2009 \$2,198 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oberammergau Passion Play & Germany
- 10 days in May, 2010 from \$2,988 |

Overseas trips include round trip air from St. Louis or Chicago; other airports may be available, please inquire.

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IND

'Vatican Ride'

Bicyclists can view historic churches in Franklin County

By Sean Gallagher

As you drive over the rolling hills on the back roads of southeastern Indiana, it seems like you can see another Catholic church in the distance with every peak you cross.

The Batesville Deanery, which lies in the heart of southeastern Indiana, has 26 parish churches, far more than any other of the archdiocese's 11 deaneries.

Franklin County alone has nine parishes. Seven are in the Batesville Deanery. Two are in the bordering Connersville Deanery.

The Franklin County Convention, Recreation and Visitors Commission is now helping bicyclists visiting the area view these historic churches, enjoy the natural beauty of southeastern Indiana, and get some good exercise pedaling up and coasting down its many hills.

Jo Ann Prickel, tourism director for the commission and a member of Holy Family Parish in Oldenburg in Franklin County, has helped map out two loops on what has been called the county's "Vatican Ride."

Prickel said she got the idea from a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis based in Oldenburg, who would ride bicycles with some friends to nearby parishes.

"They jokingly called it the Vatican Ride," Prickel said. "So I took the idea and ran with it. They just [rode] to one or two of the churches. And I thought, 'Why not ride to all of them?'"

Both loops begin and end in Oldenburg. Riders are free to park at Holy Family Parish on Main Street in the historic town.

At 17.2 miles, loop No. 1 is geared for families. On it, riders will pass by

Holy Family Church and the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis, both in Oldenburg, as well as St. John the Evangelist Church in Enochsburg and St. Anne Church in Hamburg.

Loop No. 2 is for expert cyclists and covers 44 miles. Along its byways, riders will see Holy Family Church and the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis, both in Oldenburg, as well as St. Peter Church in Franklin County, Holy Guardian Angels Church in Cedar Grove, St. Michael Church in Brookville, SS. Philomena and Cecilia Church in Oak Forest and St. Mary-of-the-Rock Church in Franklin County.

"Some of the professional bike riders that I've talked to have said that it's a tough ride," Prickel said. "It's intense."

Road signs pointing riders in the right direction should be installed by late June. Currently, there are signs for bicyclists painted on the roads.

All roads on the loops are county roads so cyclists won't have to take the busier state roads or U.S. highways.

As visitors to Franklin County ride along the loops, they will, in a sense, be going back in time.

Many of the churches along both loops are testaments to the faith of the German immigrants that moved to the area in the mid-19th century. The historic churches continue to be lovingly maintained by their present-day descendants.

Holy Family Parish was founded in 1837, just three years after the establishment of the Diocese of Vincennes. St. Peter Parish followed it by one year. St. John the Evangelist Parish and SS. Philomena and Cecilia Parish were established in 1844. St. Michael Parish was

founded the next year.

The Franciscan sisters arrived in Oldenburg in 1851. St. Anne Parish was founded in 1869. Holy Guardian Angels Parish is the "newest" Franklin County parish, having been established in 1874.

"What better way [is there] to appreciate nature and understand our Catholic background than by visiting these old churches?" Prickel asked. "It's a great activity as far as it being on safe country roads that are well marked. There's no question about where you're going."

In the future, Prickel hopes to organize a ride in the spring or fall where lots of bicyclists ride the loops at the same time and have cards stamped at each church along the way.

She also said that visitors could ride along the loops on weekends when the parishes host picnics or festivals.

St. John the Evangelist Parish in Enochsburg and St. Peter Parish in Franklin County have parish picnics during the Labor Day weekend.

Although brochures publicizing the "Vatican Ride" only began to be distributed in April, Prickel said she has already received inquiries about the loops from people living as far away as Chicago.

But, for her, the idea of putting together these bicycle rides came out of her experience growing up in Franklin County.

File photo by Mary Ann Wyand



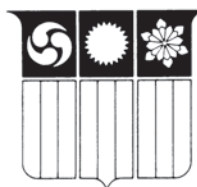
The spires of Holy Family Church and the motherhouse of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis rise up over the trees of historic Oldenburg. The southeastern Indiana town serves as the starting and ending point of the two loops of the "Vatican Ride" in which bicyclists can view several parish churches in Franklin County.

"This is what I do," Prickel said. "I was born and raised on a 140-acre farm on the outskirts of Oldenburg. For fun, we would all go out as a family and cut wood. My mother would bring a pot of soup out and heat it up on a campfire. It just came out of my Catholic upbringing more than anything else."

Prickel's love for the Catholic faith and the county that she has called home for so many years are tightly interwoven.

"If God's not there [in Franklin County]," she said, "I don't know where God is."

(For more information about the "Vatican Ride," log on to www.franklincountyin.com, send an e-mail to info@franklincountyin.com or call 866-647-6555.) †



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