

Cop completes cycle of 48 states

By FREDERICK W. BYRD

In 1977, Orange Police Lt. Charles Cobbertt set a goal of riding his motorcycle in each of the 48 contiguous United States. This year, he completed the project.

"There are 12 guys in my department who ride their own cycles," he said. "And if any of them do the same thing, they'll have to follow me; I am the first."

Cobbertt and Police Officer Jerry Fogarty started on their trip in early September. "I had to do Wisconsin, Minnesota, North and South Dakota and Colorado."

"We rode 600 miles a day, stopping at motels, and got to Wisconsin in two days."

"We didn't stop there; this was a driving trip, not for sightseeing. But I can say Wisconsin is pretty; it is a lot of farmland."

"I remember North Dakota being long and flat, and South Dakota is the same. We went through the Badlands there, where nothing grows."

"It looks something like a picture of the moon. They have these hills, with sharp edges where the wind has shaped them."

"We saw buffalos out there feeding on some sagebrush and there were also antelopes."

"I also remember the Black Hills in South Dakota. From a distance, the entire area looks black. But when you get up on it, you see it is nothing but pine trees."

"Then," he added, "we went to Mt. Rushmore. You get a little feeling of going back in history, seeing the four presidents' faces carved up there. You get a more patriotic feeling."

"Also before we left there, we went to see a monument they're building to Chief Crazy Horse. They have been working for quite a few years but it will take several years before it is completed," he said.

Then it was on to the last state Cobbertt needed to complete the project. "We stopped at the Colorado state line and took pictures," he said. "Then, when I got back on the bike and crossed the line, there was excitement and the realization that I had finally completed the entire 48 states."

They didn't even stop overnight in Colorado, he added. "We went to Denver, naturally stopped in a motorcycle shop to browse around. Then we toured the city and started back."

"It took us about four days to get back from Colorado," he added.

Cobbertt is a watch commander on the Orange force; he was on the motorcycle patrol for one year, in 1971 but doesn't ride now on the job.

"I was introduced to cycling by a sergeant, in 1971. Then I began doing it for my personal pleasure."

"There is something different about it. Here I

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Italy gets big influx

By JOEL SLEED
Star-Ledger Travel Editor

For the travel industry, it could have been called "The Summer of Malcontents." It began in mid-June, when terrorists hijacked a Rome-bound TWA jetliner in Athens and ended in mid-September when a terrorist grenade, thrown into a busy tourist-filled cafe on Rome's fashionable Via Veneto, injured 39 patrons, including nine Americans.

"I called our office in Rome as soon as I heard about the attack. Thank God, no one was killed, and thank God, none of the wounded was on one of my tours," said Mario Perillo, who takes more tourists to Italy than anyone else in the world.

Between the June hijacking and the bombing of the Cafe de Paris in Rome on Sept. 16, different areas of the world experienced airport bombings, city bombings and some of the worst air crashes in history.

However, during all that time, the phones never stopped ringing—nor did the reservations ever stop coming in—at Perillo's headquarters in Pearl River, N.Y.

"Even with all the nervous news, we had very few cancellations, although I'm sure we did lose business, as did every tour operator to Europe, because the events must have made many prospective overseas vacationers travel-shy," the tourism executive said.

However, in spite of the hijacking, bombings and crashes, he said Perillo Tours is on its way to racking up its greatest year in its 40-year history.

"A bit more than 40,000 vacationers took our escorted tours to Italy last year, which was our best ever. Before the incidents, we expected we would easily shatter that record in 1985 and we're still running ahead of last year's figures, but not by as much as we expected."



From left, Mario Perillo, his sister-in-law Sister Lucy, and his wife, Olga, at an audience with Pope John Paul II

"However, bookings for our off-season tours to Italy are at their highest in the three years since we began the off-peak program, so maybe the American traveler is beginning to become more inured to world events," said Perillo, who lives in Saddle River, and started in the travel business with his father in 1945 after his discharge from the Air Force.

So what is the reason for the success of Perillo Tours?

"There are many reasons," said the Brooklyn-born executive, who is a graduate of New York Law School. "We have experience,

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(From top) The torn peaks of South Dakota's Badlands National Park fractured the senses of Orange Police Lt. Charles Cobbertt and Officer Jerry Fogarty on the last leg of a country-wide bicycle tour. Equally impressive was the rock face visage of Abraham Lincoln and three other famous American presidents on the Mt. Rushmore National Monument. (Left) The green ponderosa pines are the background for brilliant autumn in South Dakota's Black Hills

Philly revels in historical role

By STEPHEN BIRNBAUM

Travelers routinely search the globe for icons and remnants of earlier ages: from the Acropolis in Athens to the peaks of the Incan Andes, tours and trips abound that have physical manifestations of world history at their heart. It's really too bad that few of these same travelers recognize how much history exists far closer to home. The city of Philadelphia is a perfect example of historic enclaves within our own country that are every bit as interesting—and far more moving—than those found abroad.

In years past, it was almost a custom to denigrate Philadelphia as a travel destination, a habit started by W.C. Fields. But no city in America has more dramatically changed its image. The present Philadelphia cityscape bristles with superb new hotels and chic restaurants, and few cities can now compare with Philadelphia's unique blend of history and fun.

There's a special feeling that comes with walking down Elfreth's Alley, the oldest continuously occupied residential street in America. Only one block long—and just six feet wide—it's lined with 200-year-old houses which emphasize that Philadelphia's major appeal still derives from the days before Benjamin Franklin.

William Penn founded the city in 1682, christening his new colony "The City of Brotherly Love." By 1750, Philadelphia was the leading city among the American colonies, and in 1752 the Liberty Bell arrived to mark the 50th anniversary of Penn's "Charter of Privileges," America's first real try at defining personal and religious liberty. It's widely believed that the bell cracked in 1776 while announcing that the 13 colonies had broken away from Great Britain, but the damage

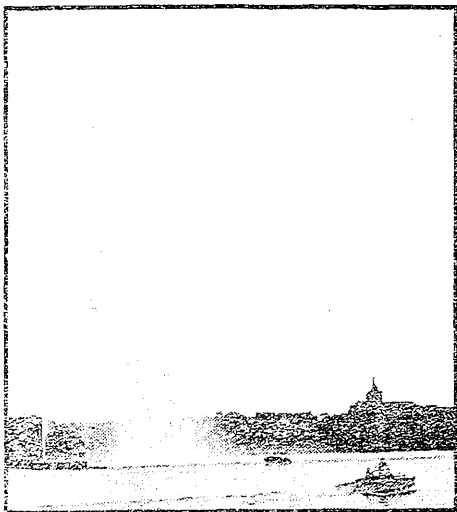
didn't really happen until the early 1800s.

From 1790 to 1800, the Continental Congress of the United States met in Congress Hall, and Philadelphia kept its place as the nation's capital until the District of Columbia was designated the permanent federal head-

quarters.

What's truly extraordinary is just how many of the original historic places still stand and are open for exploration. Most of these

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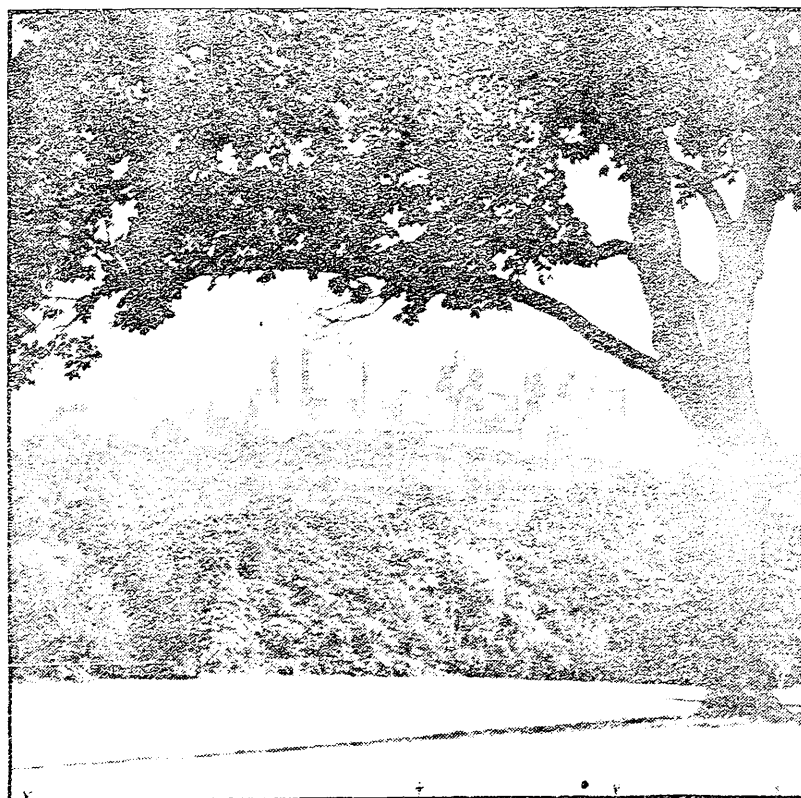


There's something mysterious in the Alpine air of Geneva

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Glorious scenery on French Riviera

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Fairmount Park in Philadelphia contains many of the city's cultural treasures



Charles Cobbert of Orange, left, and Gerry Fogarty of West Orange cut dashing figures as they motorcycle through the West

Cop completes cycle of 48 states

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am 46 years old; when I get in my car, I feel like a 46-year-old man. But on my motorcycle, I feel like a 46-year-old kid.

"It relaxes you, like a tranquilizer. Some days after work, when I am tensed up, I get on my bike, hit (Interstate) 280 and go all the way up (Interstate) 80 to the Delaware Water Gap, into Pennsylvania.

"I just sit on the bike; I don't stop," he added.

Fogarty, who is 38, has been riding for 21 years.

"I guess the basic thing I enjoy is being in the outdoors on the bike, instead of in a car where you are enclosed. You can see more, enjoy more of the country.

"What I liked on this trip," Fogarty recalled, "is the open area of the country itself. There was Badlands National Park and Mt. Rushmore Memorial. And of course, the fact that Charlie had to get all 48 states done was exciting."

Fogarty said he has been in 44 states. "I still have to do Oregon, Washington, Arkansas and Oklahoma," he said.

"We might go to Alaska if they ever improve the Al-Can Highway. But right now it isn't in good shape for our big touring bikes," he said.

His greatest trip, he said, "was in 1966. I took a three-week trip across country, to California. It was a goal I set for myself prior to going to Vietnam."

Cobbert says people seem to have a special rapport with motorcycle riders. "Anytime you go somewhere on a motorcycle, it always draws a crowd. You don't know who you are talking to, but that bike has a special appeal and they come up and are friendly to you."

"I know cycling has a stigma of Hell's Angels and outlaws. But that should change.

"I went to a Gold Wing Roadriders' Association rally in Knoxville, Tenn., this year. There were 5,900 people from all over the world there.

"The average age was 50; they were doctors, lawyers, police officers. One lady rode in in a sidecar and she was 94 years old. These are good peo-

ple," he said.

His bicycle, he said, "has a radio, a tape deck, a CB, an intercom to talk to your passenger." But isn't the passenger sitting right next to him? he is asked. "Yeah, but when you go 50 miles per hour and there is all that wind you

can't hear them. So you talk through the intercom, helmet to helmet, right into the ear."

He has had one accident. "In 1972, here in Orange, a woman cut me off. I knocked my front teeth out.

"But I still like it," he added.

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WITH AMERICAN EXPRESS

Westmoreland recalls WW II 'memories'

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI)—U.S. Army General William C. Westmoreland (ret.), commander of American forces in Vietnam during that conflict, will lecture on military history aboard an April 1986 "memories" cruise of World War II Pacific battle sites.

Westmoreland will speak along with U.S. Navy Adm. Thomas H. Moorer (ret.), on the 28-day "Coral and Java Seas Pacific Memories" cruise aboard the Royal Viking Star.

Departing Sydney on April 9, the

ship will call at Guadalcanal; Rabaul, New Britain; Port Moresby; Manila, and other sites in the South Pacific and Southeast Asia. A shore excursions program will include visits to Corregidor, Henderson Field and Iron Bottom Sound for a look at landing beaches, former airstrips, Japanese wartime installations and similar military landmarks.

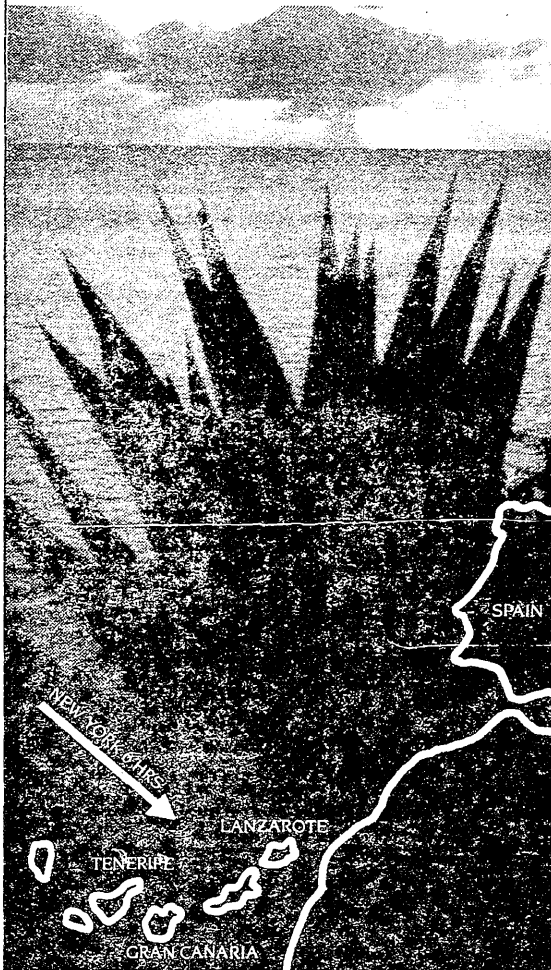
Moorer, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is a Pacific war veteran whose actions in that theater

began at Pearl Harbor and ran throughout the conflict. Westmoreland, former Army Chief of Staff, will compare the Pacific theater with that in Europe, and discuss it in the perspective of more recent Pacific developments.

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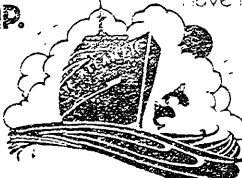
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