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# MAPLE

## Old Home Week

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## ENGLISH JOURNEY

By  
Walter R. Legge  
Article No. 6

Within a short bus ride journey from Amersham are two places that should be on the "must see" list of every visitor to England, Windsor Castle and Hampton Court Palace. One whole day at least should be spent at Windsor for there is so much to see. The town itself is an interesting old place but the Castle is worth the whole journey to England. The usual pictures of Windsor Castle give little indication of the real size and grandeur of the many buildings.

It is known that there was a castle here in the days of William II (1087 to 1100) but the present castle was started by Edward III (1327-1377) and succeeding kings made various additions until about 1820 since which time there have been no changes.

As everyone knows, the Royal family spend much of their time at Windsor Castle but when they are absent, visitors are shown through the state apartments by expert guides who lecture in each room. These are not the private apartments of the Royal family, which are in another part of the Castle. It is impossible in the space available to adequately describe these state apartments but the following is a brief summary in the order visited.

The China Museum contains a valuable collection of services of Worcester, Wedgwood, Minton, Copeland etc. made for various Kings.

The Grand staircase has a suit of armour made for Henry VIII, colours of many regiments, arms and armour.

King Charles II Dining Room has a ceiling painting by Verrio of a Banquet of the Gods; Grindly Gibbons carvings, and priceless pictures, furniture and tapestries.

The Rubens Room is so called because of the number of paintings by that artist on the walls. It's used as the principal apartment during State visits. This room also has valuable furniture and porcelains.

The State Bedroom has a State Bedstead made 1774-1793 and the walls are covered with green silk damask. Here are also priceless paintings and furniture.

The King's Closet and the Queen's Closet are two more large rooms with period furniture and magnificent paintings.

The Picture Gallery, used as a Writing Room during state visits is known as the Picture Gallery on account of the number of masterpieces of great value. There are over 40 paintings by such artists as Holbein, Rubens, Rembrandt, etc.

The Van Dyck Room is so called because most of the paintings are by that artist and there are many fine pieces of furniture.

The Queen's Audience Chamber has another fine ceiling painting by Verrio and three magnificent panel tapestries of Gobelins.

The Queen's Presence Chamber also has a ceiling painting by Verrio and wonderful furniture and pictures.

The Guard Chamber has an armour clad equestrian figure, a fine collection of historical swords and batons, as well as busts, tapestries, pictures and furniture.

St. George's Hall built by Edward III to hold the banquets of the Knights of the Garter is 185 ft. long and 30 feet wide. The decorations include the shield of Arms of all knights of the Garter from the foundation of the Order in 1344 to the present day, and busts of about 24 kings and members of the Royal Family.

The Grand Reception Room has six huge Gobelin tapestries.

The Throne Room is where many Royal Investitures of the Order of the Garter has taken place. The pictures are of Sovereigns in their Garter Robes.

The Ante Throne Room has five paintings by Zuccarelli, busts and Louis XV tables.

The Waterloo Chamber has a mahogany table capable of seating 150 persons. The walls are covered with Heraldic Badges and over forty painting of celebrities.

The last room is the Grand Vestibule, filled with cases of souvenirs of historical events, and other objects, forming a museum of great interest.

It would take days to really study the apartments but the visitor must keep up with the guide and party. It was noticeable that the guide never used superlatives such as "the finest in the world" although there is no doubt that many items could be so classed. There were over 5000 visitors to the apartments on the day we were there.

The Queen's Doll's House is another section open to the public but we did not have time enough to visit it.

Equally interesting is the St. George's Chapel which is one of the most beautiful and interesting buildings in England.

Here again an expert guide conducts parties of visitors and points out each item of interest and here again, hours could be spent studying the details.

St. George's Chapel is where many kings and queens are buried including Henry VIII and his Queen, Jane Seymour, Edward VII, Queen Alexandra, George III, George IV, Henry VI and many others.

Our guide showed his sense of dramatics as he told of the body of Charles the First being smuggled past sentries into the chapel for burial at the dead of night. For a long time it was doubted if it really was the body of the king and if he was really beheaded. Years later the body was exhumed and found to be really the body of Charles the First and the head was separate from the body.

We were fortunate in seeing the extensive and massive old altar vessels which are not usually on view, but which had not been removed after a special service that morning.

Lovers of fine architecture are richly rewarded for a visit to St. George's Chapel for although it is not as old as many other Church buildings it is far richer and the stone vaulting is glorious. It is hard to tear oneself away from this gem of England.

Going out on the north terrace of the Castle a glorious view is obtainable over the countryside and in the foreground are the buildings of Eton, one of England's most famous boys' schools. In the town of Windsor at almost any time can be seen boys with the caps, uniforms and toppers worn by various groups of students.

The following interesting item about Eton was clipped from a recent daily paper:

"A woman I know put her son down for Eton soon after he was born, 12 years ago."

"His name went on the general waiting list. This was a mistake. His mother should have made sure it was on a housemaster's list."

"So unless there is a failure among the examinees in September, he stands no chance of going to Eton in the autumn. Hundreds more boys are waiting for such chance vacancies."

"Fees at Eton are now 278 pounds a year. Nevertheless, lists are full until 1960."

Only a half hour's bus ride from Windsor is Hampton Court Palace which I visited on another day. It was built by Cardinal Wolsey when he was the richest man in England. His household numbered 500 and 280 guest rooms were always ready for guests.

Wolsey presented it to King Henry VIII who made it one of the most luxurious palaces in the kingdom.

It is now preserved by the Ministry of Works as an ancient monument and historic building. Visitors may go through the various apartments which are full of period furniture, priceless paintings, tapestries, etc.

The gardens at Hampton Court Palace are extensive and very beautiful, and the most widely known feature there is the famous Maze probably planted in the reign of William III. The hedges which line the paths of the Maze are 6 feet high and two feet thick, but looked to me as if they were dying. Perhaps they will be better later in the summer.

Another feature is the Tiltyard garden where tournaments were held in the days of Henry VIII. It is seven acres in area, enclosed by high brick walls and five towers provided accommodation for the spectators.

Hampton Court Palace and grounds are on the banks of the Thames and river steamers make frequent trips up and down the Thames carrying passengers to such places as Richmond, Kingston, London, etc., at a small charge.

I went on one of these steamers to Kingston which is a busy centre with many interesting old buildings among fine modern ones. It was market day and I had a chance to see another of these outdoor markets which are a feature of many towns.

### SEA CADETS

Boys how would you like to wear the uniform of one of the smartest and courageous body of men in the world, that of the Royal Canadian Navy.

If you are between the ages of 12 and 18 years, and you can pass the necessary medical and physical requirements, you are cordially invited to enlist in this newly formed Corps of Royal Canadian Sea Cadets.

This unit is under the sponsorship of two prominent organizations and supervised by gentlemen residing in the Willowdale community. The Officers appointed to train boys in this Corps are veterans of World War II, and they have pledged themselves to give their time to pass their experiences on to you. Included in the syllabus of training are such subjects as Camping, Yachting, Signalling, Seamanship, Boat-building, Target Practice and Bandsmanship. Also featured is an annual two-weeks camp on Georgian Bay.

The name of the ship is R.C.S.C.C. 'Ontario' and we meet each Thursday between the hours of 8 p. m. and 10 p. m. at the New Canadian Legion Hall, Yonge and Spring Gardens, Willowdale, Stop 6A. Drop in and see for yourself what we have to offer you.

# LIONS CLUB HORSE SHOW



## CARNIVAL & DANCE

Marking the 75th. Anniversary of the Village Of Richmond Hill.

Civic Holiday Mon. Aug. 2

IN THE

# Richmond Hill Park

A Big Afternoon and Evening Program, From 1 p.m. to 1 a.m.

A Horse Show With a fine Program of saddle and Hurdle Events Featuring Some of Ontario's Finest Horses and Riders.

MIDWAY - GAMES - RIDES - SOFTBALL GAME.

Aunt Jemima, in person, with her most tempting pancakes

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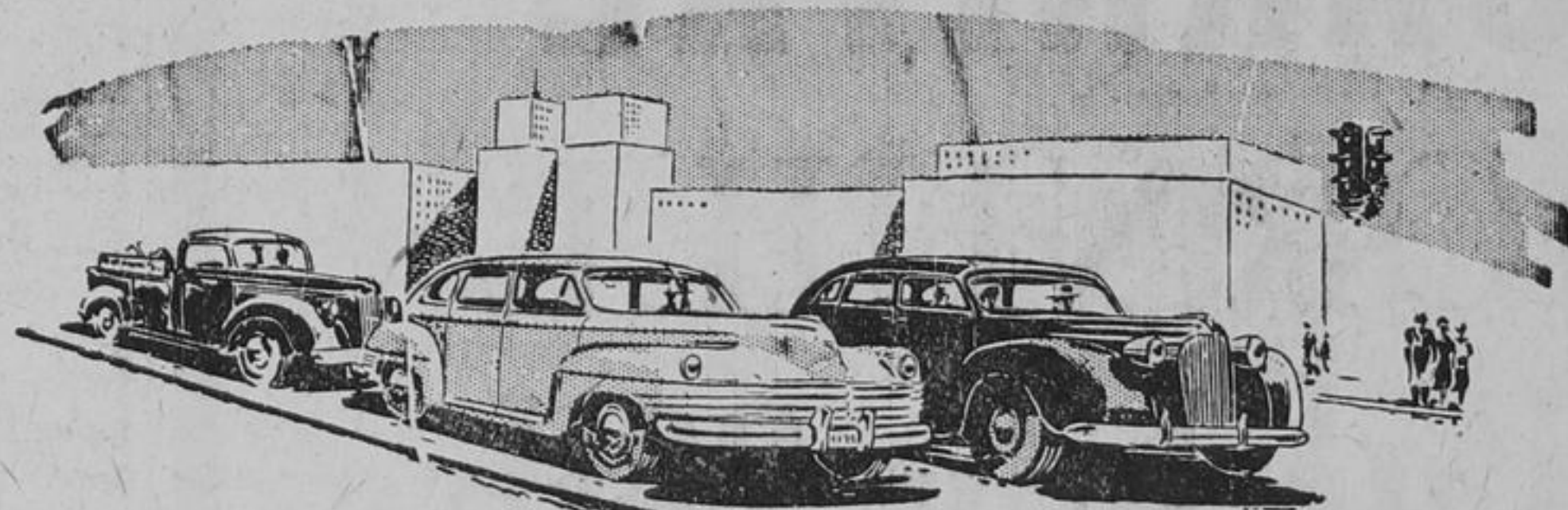
ADMISSION: To Grounds 25c - To Dance 25c

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