## Scotland—Land of cottages and castles

By AILEEN ADAMS

land - Scotland in the had settled on the grass. mist and mystery. spring is a land of cot- Lambs are everywhere, The castle has a partages and castles, all set frisking and hopping as if ticular link with

low grey stone walls.

grazing fields, fields so

populated with little is Edinburgh Castle lambs that you would which sits high and aloof EDINBURGH. Scot- think fluffy, white clouds on its hill, wrapped in

among clouds of daf- their legs were coiled Canadians because, in the springs. So full of life and courtyard, there is a plot It is a land where the bounce and fun are they, of earth brought from scent of the sea is ever you think you can never Nova Scotia in 1625. It present, a land where face a lamb chop again. was brought to dramatize clear streams tumble Castles are almost as the fact that Nova Scotia down hills and the green plentiful as lambs in (New Scotland) was the fields are punctuated by Scotland. The lawful possession of publication, "Scotland - Scotland.

A land small in com- 600 Things to See," lists It is pleasing to think parison to Canada, even 118 castles (including that anyone of Scottish to Ontario, it never fails Glamis and Balmoral) ancestry coming from to amaze one with its and five palaces that are Canada has only to walk spaciousness. There are open to the public at across this square of mile after mile of green certain times of the year. Canadian soil to feel the

Perhaps the best known pull of ancestral ties and the deep link between the two countries. Castle is even more catch the sun, where dramatic, perched high roses once bloomed and

> The road to the castle many hundreds of years of Mansfield. twists up from the town ago. and it's easy to see why, In the great hall of



besieging the castle, had to rob abbeys and cathedrals of their lead roof tiles to increase the destructive power of his catapults.

But more than history is the present beauty of the castle. Standing in clear, pure light, washed with sunshine, it has its quadrangles, its western In its way, Stirling facing niches perched to as an eagle's nest on a medieval demoiselles precipice that falls laughed and chattered steeply to the plain below. and troubadors sang, so

centuries ago, Edward I, Stirling Castle, the

area is now painstakingly

being restored. Each of the great oak beams is aged for 15 years before it is locked into place in the high, arched roof. It is planned that the great hall will be finished in 1997.

Then there is Scone Palace — built at the geographical centre of Scotland. As a meeting place of councils, Scone dates back to the year 710 and, of course, is the source of the Stone of Scone, upon which all the British Monarchs have been crowned.

Scone Palace itself is comfortable and magnificent. Largely rebuilt in 1802, it is now the hereditary residence of the family of William David Mungo James Murray, the present Earl

The rooms are palacelike in proportion and display an imposing array of artifacts. There are exquisite ivories carved from a single tusk. Antique French furniture, some of it made to the of Marie

Stewarts "once in glory Antoinette, fill the rooms. hold not books but Chelsea china. reigned," as the guide The great Gothic displays of Meissen, The castles are only one be explored in this anwill tell you. The vast cabinets in the library Sevres. Derby and facet of Scotland. There cient, yet new, land,

are a multitude more to



Scotland charm

River Tay at Perth, a Highland centre staging an arts festival in May. There's an incomparable charm to Scotland in the Spring.

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## TRAVELCHAT By Anne Wanstall Travel Editor

Despite all its much publicized problems, Britain is still Canada's number one holiday destination - and deservedly so.

While there on a fact-finding tour when the weather was at its wintery worst, the garbage men were on strike, and labor disputes were the sole subject of the local newscasts, only London seemed greatly affected by all the problems.

Outside of the huge metropolis, citizens went about their daily business, virtually unaffected

by the industrial upheaval. The countryside is still about the most beautiful in Europe, the ancient buildings are still being preserved, travel is much easier between centres because of excellent motorways, hotels are being updated to provide North American-style convenience, and meals are greatly improved.

People are friendly and helpful to strangers, and although costs have risen sharply, it is still possible to get holiday bargains in most parts of the British Isles.

London will probably remain a drawing card, especially for first-time vacationers, but my advice would be to plan on a short stay to see the sights, then a quick getaway to even more beautiful and more leisurely centres outside. For a lower cost, and infinitely less hassle, you'll return with a bagful of memories.

Vacationers who intend to tour Britain with a rent-a-car should consider booking flights to Prestwick, Manchester or Gatwick. All give easy access to the countryside, without the nervewracking experience of having to drive through outer London.

A great way to see Wales is by horseback. Cae Iago in the fold of the Twrch Valley, amid the splendid Cambrian Mountains, offers half-day, day rides, weekends, and full residential riding

holidays. For full information about costs and conditions, write Mrs. C. Pollak, Cae Iago, Farmers, Llanwrda, Dyfed, Wales, SA19 8LZ.

For all advice on a vacation in Britain, go to the British Tourist Authority, 151 Bloor St. West,

## Thornhill woman one of 9 charged -with conspiring to fix tickets

was among nine people by the internal affairs arrested Thursday and unit of the Metropolitan charged with conspiring Toronto Police Force. to fix traffic tickets.

Juliet Sarabura, 40, of Old Number 7 Highway court documents before a ministrative clerk, faces result in the withdrawal the course of justice.

Donald McLeod, 42, of Silverthorn Avenue, a justice of the peace, as well as a lawyer, two taxi owners, a truck driver and two other court documents going through clerks.

in court yesterday.

A Thornhill court clerk a year-long investigation

The disappearance of East, a court ad- case is heard can usually one charge of obstructing of charges and it is also up to the court to inform Also charged were the ministry of transportation and communication, which keeps driving records, of

With more than 500,000 the downtown provincial All nine were to appear court office alone, it is quite easy for records to





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