

Eighteenth article in a series by Miss Margaret Laundry.

THE ATLANTIC COAST

The Atlantic coast from the Bristol Channel to Lands End is a trip I'd recommend to anyone for variety and rugged beauty. We'd gladly have spent a month at it rather than a few days.

Our last stop on the channel was at Minehead, not an attractive name, but a most attractive town built on the cliff side. The older sections of the town were dotted with soft, velvety, grey and brown thatched roofs with a pattern woven around the edge. All thatches are covered with a coarse wire netting to keep the wind from uplifting part of the straw or the birds from nesting. They must be replaced every 10 to 20 years. Here we have mostly lawns with small gardens but in Minehead gardens of roses, hollyhocks, daisies and all abounded with little room left for lawns.

On the north coast of Devon the big sand beaches and sailing boats in the caves at Ilfracombe and Combe Martin looked most inviting in the warm July sun.

The toughest climb we had other than for the Kirkstone Pass in the Lake District was up Porlock Hill which rises "1 in 4" said a sign. I'm not just sure what that means but it certainly was a steep hill all $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of it. There were danger signs all along the way to pedestrians to be careful of cars out of control. Half way up we halted to get a beautiful view back over the cliffs and sands of Porlock Bay. The water was very blue with the white surf sparkling in the sun. We sat down on the bank at the side of the road and picked handfuls of blue berries which looked like ours but hadn't that sweet flavour. I believe these were worttle berries. An approaching bus was our solution to the problem of the rest of the hill - the only disillusionment being that our fare was the same as if we'd boarded at the bottom - after all that work!

Many of you have probably heard of Clovelly, a little fishing village at the foot of the cliffs. Long steep winding steps lead into the village so steep that sure footed donkeys are the best and only means of transportation. It is quite an attraction for tourists!

Continuing along the coast we drove through Lynton and Lynmouth which you may remember reading about in August of '51 when they suffered tremendous damage when

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a now small and innocent looking river, coming down through the cliffs, overflowed its banks; at the same time tidal waves rose over the sea wall washing away hotels, bridges and homes. By coincidence a London couple, whom we know well, were holidaying there at the time and were marooned on the second floor of a hotel watching people and cars being carried away by the waves and not knowing whether they themselves would be the next to go until a rescue party reached them the next day. It will be many years before all the damage can be repaired and these twin towns gain back their status as popular summer resorts.

An Australian sheep farmer picked us up about here, movie camera and all, who had flown over from Australia for a months holidays in England. He told us some wild and wooly tale about racing kangaroos at 40 M.P.H. and eating steaks topped with fried eggs for breakfast. That night we spent in Tintagel on the Cornish Coast which is more rugged than Devon. To find the hostel we left the town crossing a moor, past a very desolate churchyard overgrown with wild grain blowing in the wind, to the edge of the cliff. The hostel had been a lookout base during the Battle of Britain - just a small, well concealed, building on the slate cliff, with a sheer drop to the churning sea below. A few hundred yards to the north is Glebe Cliff, almost surrounded by the sea, on which lies the ruins of King Arthur's castle. This coastline abounds with caves in the slate rock with floors of smooth coloured pebbles and plastic-like sea weed - a wonderful world for people who like exploring. It brings to mind those story books of English boys and girls who take picnics into caves forgetting about the tide until they find themselves surrounded and their adventures in getting safely back home.

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PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWS

May we remind you once again that we are registering all kindergarten children after school this week. Please bring along some proof of age for your child.

Miss Honer will give a talk for all parents of prospective kindergarten children on Friday, May 7th, at two-thirty. She will accompany her talk with slides of the class in action.

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