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England, Wales and Ireland Trip

5/4/93 - 5/28/93

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Day 1 - Tuesday, 5/4

Up at 3:45 AM on 5/4 to be at the airport 2 hours prior to 6:45 departure time. We thought we would fly to Chicago then on to London, however, we found out that the flight would also go to New York. A four hour lay over in Chicago and a two hour lay over in New York, then the 8 hour flight to London made a very long day. The flight arrived an hour late, approximately 10 AM. It was a good flight, I enjoyed Sommersby (with Richard Gere) the in-flight movie.

Day 2 - Wednesday, 5/5

It took about an hour to go through immigration, our passports were checked. Since we didn't have anything to declare, we didn't have to open our luggage. We went to the tourist information to get accommodations for the three days we were going to be in London. They arranged a room at the Adelphi in the Kensington area, double room with bath for £50 per night with continental breakfast (\$75.00). The hotel was two blocks from the Underground (train system). It was all we could muster, getting us and our four bags to the hotel before we ran out of energy.

We felt somewhat better after a 3 hour nap. We left the hotel about 5 PM to walk to Kennington Park (short distance from the hotel). Two blocks away was Christ Church, built in 1850. Took photos there and in the Park area, nice homes in this part of London. Walked by the Viet Nam, Korean and Bahrain embassies. On the way back to the hotel, we asked a breakfast shop keeper where he recommended to eat. He suggested the Lone Star, good American food and one of the best restaurant in the area. It was good, Clyde had ribs and I had a beef burrito. The lowest priced beer was a lite French beer, £1.20, good. This beer would have been considered a premium beer at home. I asked for Salsa, a chargeable item £1.30. The Salsa was good, but it cost more than the beer! Walked back to the hotel about 9 PM.

Day 3 - Thursday, 5/6

Continental breakfast included cereal, coffee, juice and basket of rolls, it was good. Left the hotel at 9:30 AM to the Underground to St. James Park Station to see the Changing of the Guard at 11:30 AM. People were already there at 10:30 AM. Clyde started talking with a Londoner, Percy Johnson, who was waiting for two of his friends. Percy said he would show us where to be for the best photos. The guards come in one route and the relieved guards (and bands) leave by another route. We saw three carriages (Queens carriage) leave Buckingham Palace to pick up a head-of-state (saw them return later, Asian men). Percy took us to the Guard Station on Birdcage Walk and watched the captain inspecting the band and soldiers.

Percy told us that no matter what we read in the paper about the Prince and Princess of Wales in the papers, if Diana is with the Queen in June (official birthday ceremony?), she is in, otherwise, there isn't much hope that Charles and Diana will get back together. I asked him about Fergie, he said she is out, no one ever hears about her anymore.

Returned to the Palace and stayed until noon. Walked through the park to St. James Palace (not open to the public) then to Trafalgar Square to Parliament. Each December since 1946, the people of Norway have given a large Christmas Tree to the citizens of London in honor of their efforts during the Second World War. This tradition is called The Lights of Trafalgar! Ran into Percy and his friends again. Saw Westminster Abbey, looked inside. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was just inside and the Royal Chapel (fee, didn't

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go in). We had asked Percy for his recommendation for lunch. He said he always recommends fish & chips and the best are at the Laughing Halibut on Scrutton Ground near the Abbey. Fish & chips, or chippies have been an established facet of British Culture for years; fried fish served with baked potatoes or bread and mushy peas was common at the time of the Great Exhibition of 1852. In a suburb of Manchester in the 1860's a cafe sold 'potatoes fried in the French style'. Cod outsells all other fish put together, looks white and fleshy and has a chewy texture. Haddock is flaky and usually a bit darker. Plaice should be as white as possible. Skate is also used, however it is slightly more expensive than the other fish. The longer the queue (line) the better the chippie!

We found our way there (after asking for directions again), sure enough the food was great. Had lunch at 2:30 PM, no crowds at this time. Decided to go the Tower of London since we had tickets that night to the Changing of the Keys Ceremony (9:30 PM). Took the Underground to the Tower Station. This famous landmark was interesting, visited the Bloody Tower, White Tower and the old Armory. Sir Walter Raleigh was imprisoned here, Anne Boleyn had her trial and death here (beheaded). Clyde took my picture with a Beefeater. We were there until closing, 6 PM. Sat on the bench overlooking the Thames, took telephoto pictures of the Tower Bridge.

We decided to take a river cruise, the last one leaves at 6:10 PM, one way to Westminster. The ride took us under the new London Bridge (the old bridge is in Havasu City, Arizona) and past the Belfast (largest British Cruiser). Nice cruise, weather was nice. Left the boat at Westminster, looked for a toilet but everything was closed. Clyde asked a Bobby where one was, he suggested the Parliament. He added that both the House of Commons and the House of Lords were still in session and we could observe the debates from the Strangers Gallery if we wanted to.

Being debated in the House of Commons was what the number of nuclear warheads should be. The Knife Bill (second time) was being debated in the House of Lords. The author, a Scotsman, was in full dress kilt. The oldest part of Parliament was the first hall near the entrance, built in 1000 - 1100. This section made it through the great fire of 1066 and both world wars. The rest of Parliament was built in the 18th century.

After Parliament, we looked for supper, everything was closed so we decided to take the Underground to the station before the Tower station since it was a major transfer station and perhaps an eating place was open. We found ourselves in the financial district and the couple selling the evening papers to train riders said that only MacDonaldis was opened. Walked there and got 2 quarter pounders and water for £4.60 (\$6.00). They were OK. Got to the Tower about 9 PM and waited until 9:35 for the guards to open the gates. Very cold. I walked to the river for night pictures of the Tower Bridge and the London Skyline. A Beefeater escorted the group (approximately 30 people) to the Bloody Tower (outside wall) and told us the story of the 750 year old 'changing of the key ceremony'.

The King came home one night late and was upset at finding the security lax because the street vendors were still in the castle selling their wares. The king instructed his gentleman steward to henceforth lock the gates at sunset. The steward thought this would be an easy job but after awhile the people resented him for closing early and losing money. It became necessary for assistance, the steward asked the king for protection guards. In the 18th century, the king changed tradition by changing the time to 10 PM, since the time of sunset varies. This ceremony also marks the end of the day for the troops as the trumpet plays the British version of Taps. It took about 30 minutes, this very solemn ceremony is done 365 days a year, rain or shine. It was cold in May, I wouldn't want to be there in winter. Tickets for this ceremony must be arranged for from home. For tickets, write to the Resident Governor, Tower of London, EC3 London, England (UK), telephone: 709-0765. From 'Lets Go London, 93, page 153'.

Day 4 - Friday, 5/7

We were out-and-about later this morning, didn't leave the hotel until 10:30 AM. Took the underground to St. Paul's Cathedral, a very remarkable cathedral. The Duke of Wellington had the largest tomb, Lord Nelson, Florence Nightingale and many others were buried there including Sir Christopher Wren (architect).

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Tickets were £2.50 each. Beautiful dome, ceilings and alters. One of the end alters was dedicated to the US soldiers who died in England in WWII. One statue survived the 1066 great fire (photos). The bombs of WWII did damage inside, but not to the structure. We left St. Paul's to find the oldest streets in London (London City), Fleet St. and the Tower area. Had our first pub grub, special that day was turkey pie with fries, peas and Brussel Sprouts. Food, pint and lemonade was £12.00.

We took the Underground to the Bank of England museum then to the half price theater ticket booth in Leicester Square. Bought tickets for the "Ideal Husband" for £24.00 each (Dr. Kohn recommended this show) only to find out we were at the wrong place. This was the information center that sold tickets (full price), got the tickets anyway. We're off to the Globe Theater for the 7:45 PM performance. The show was excellent, the cast knew their stuff. A middle age couple with high regards to ethics and proprietary, were compromised when a beautiful woman tries to blackmail the politician husband into supporting a bill that he wasn't going to vote for. She would make a fortune if the bill passed, the same way he did when he was young and let a state secret out to a financier some 20 years ago. She had a letter proving this. 'The Ideal Husband' was the couples best friend who blackmailed the beautiful woman when she stated that she lost a brooch and he knew she had stolen it since he had given the brooch to an aunt some years ago. One blackmail canceled the other. The gentleman finally asked the politician's sister to marry him (40+ year old bachelor), much to his father's delight. Everyone lived happy ever after. A tidbit from history, 'female roles on the English stage were traditionally played by boys until the Restoration. The identity of the first English actress is unknown but whoever she was, she played Desdemona in Shakespeare's Othello, performed in 1660 at a theater in Clare Market, London'. The show was over at 10 PM, took the Underground home (from Piccadilly Circus Station). This was the longest wait for a train, 20 minutes and the cars were packed.

Day 5 - Saturday, 5/8

Had breakfast (8:30 AM), checked out of the hotel at 10:30. Jesus (Bellman) helped us carry our bags to the Underground Station. £2.80 to Heathrow to pick up the car. Prior to leaving the hotel, we called the car rental agency, no one answered. We hoped someone would be at the airport, the only thing we knew was Terminal #4. The train had just four people in our car. We talked with a young man leaving London to return to California (Bay Area), he was on a business trip to Paris and Ireland. He worked for Apple Corp., and meets with customers to determine Mac Portable (Powerbook) requirements. He and Clyde had a lot to talk about.

The car rental agency answered the phone this time and told us they would pick us up at pick up area #24. The agent at the office was helpful in assuring us that driving on the British side of the road would work out fine! We had to leave a refundable £100 plus £25 for a full tank of gas. She said to bring the car back near empty, only fumes left! We had a free upgrade (reservations was for a Ford Escort) to a new red Rover.

Clyde thought having the steering wheel on the right side of the car was weird, but he did a great job on his first driving attempt. The provided instructions worked fine, taking us to M25 (M=Motorway, similar to our freeways) out of London. We stopped at the visitor center in Maidstone asking for recommendations on lunch and a Bed & Breakfast (B&B). She tried two places and no one answered, we would have to try later in the day at another Information center. Stopped at two places for lunch and both were finished serving lunch. Found a pub open, Clyde had fish & chips and I had garlic mussels, both were fresh and good. Half pints lemonade and lager cost £12.

Went to Leeds Castle, arrived about 4 PM. We purchased just the grounds ticket as it was already late afternoon and the castle closed at 5:30 PM. £5.50 each plus £5.50 for guide book and souvenirs. Very windy. The moat was surrounded by a beautiful golf course. A few rhododendrons were in bloom, the rest of the flowers were buds. Black swans were swimming in the moat, very graceful. The castle was impressive, took photos with reflections of the castle in the moat.

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Continuing on, the roundabouts were very confusing. Sometimes I'm not much help in giving directions. The narrow lanes in the villages are more difficult as cars are parked on the side making the roads barely wide enough for one car.

Stopped at the Information Center in Ashford at 5 PM (it closed at 5:30 PM). Only one B&B had available rooms. £27 for double room and bath down the hall. We took it and walked around the old St. Mary The Virgin's Church. As I was taking pictures, two young girls (both smoking) asked why I was taking a picture of that ugly church. I said I'm from the States, and 100 years old is old to us, this church was 500 years old. They giggled.

Went on to find the Willesborough Windmill. After going ten miles the wrong way, we found it and took some pictures arriving to the B&B at 6:30 PM. Nice couple, we walked into the surrounding old barns, took photos of the Oasts and then back to the room. The farm house was in beer country! In the County of Kent hops are grown for the bitter taste in beer that the English love. However, hops can't be used until they are dried. After picking, hops are put into panniers and hauled to the Oast into the top bay on a metal grid. A fire is let below them and the smoke, containing sulfur, filters through the hops killing mites and insects. The hops dry out so they can be put into a long sack, known as 'hop pockets'. Once in the pocket, the flavor stays in tack for a year or more. Hop merchants come to the farms to select hops using a boring tool to take a sample from the pocket to test the quality of the crop. Oasts are usually alone or in groups of two or three and are still in use today. This B&B had two Oasts! The wind was howling and it was cold. Each room had an electric water pot. We both had hot chocolate, just what we needed. The hot chocolate and peanuts from the United flight were our dinner.

Day 6 - Sunday, 5/9

Breakfast at 8:30 with a couple from South Africa and two friends traveling together (Connecticut and Birmingham). Nice people. We had our first full English breakfast, cereal, juice, coffee, 1 sausage and bacon, egg and toast, very good. Off and about at 9 AM.

We tried to find a windmill at Mersham, no luck. On to Hythe, asked a local where the water well was, she never heard of it, oh well! On to Dover, the sky was getting darker, rain soon started. Drove to Dover Castle. Unfortunately, we didn't have enough time to tour it. The attendant suggested to drive to Langdon Cliffs, £1. It started to rain after we left the parked car. We saw the white cliffs and the large dock which was the major crossing point to France (22 miles), photos. Walked briskly as we were getting wet, we left the umbrellas and rain coats in the car.

Returning by the same route, we took more photos of the castle. Returning to Hythe Autoway (A259) to New Romney and to the Dungeness Point. Had fish & chips (Clyde had cod, I had Skate) and a pint of bitters/lemonade. We took photos of the old and new lighthouse. We drove on to Rye, by this time it was 2:30 PM. Found the Information Center and made reservations for the Owlet (Carole Ball) B&B £32. We dropped our bags off and went to Medieval Rye (incorporated in 1269), took photos and met a woman from Truckee, CA. Her husband's family lived in the area. Bought candy bars for £2.11. We then drove through the countryside, it was very difficult to find things.

Following the signs to Lympe Castle (12th century) church and graveyard. Drove through Tenterden, Biddenden, many more villages. Took photos of the Tenterden church, went inside. Finally found Sissinghurst Castle, couldn't get in as it was closed on Sunday. We never could find Scotney Castle. Followed signs to Bodiam Castle, closed but we could walk around and get photos. The light wasn't too good and it soon started to rain again. Passed through Goudhurst Village, took photos of the sun shining on the church, pretty.

Returned to the B&B at 8 PM. We looked forward to a quiet night, no traffic or howling wind. About 11 PM rain and lightning/thundering started. The thundershower lasted for almost an hour. We thought we were the only guests there, however, at breakfast the next morning a couple from England were staying for the

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POP Show. Slept well, up at 7:30 AM for breakfast at 8:30. Carole said the lightening was unusual, horizontal lightening. Upon reading Carole's business card, I told her that I have a friend at home who spells her name with an 'E' too. She said she tells people her name has an 'E' because she isn't a Christmas Carol. Nice family, the two girls left for school at 8:30. They bought the home 20 years ago from her grandmother. Carole told me after I had said your backyard is pretty, that the English reference is 'gardens'.

Day 7 - Monday, 5/10

Beautiful day, blue sky and the news reports it will be warm today. We drove to Rye Harbor. Photos of Martello Tower, 74 towers were built between 1805 - 1812 for front line defense from the French. Cannons had been placed in the fortifications. The tide was rapidly going out, most of the boats were on dry land. Local fisherman smiled for my photos. On to Hastings and the battle site of 1066, everything was so green!

Found our way to the Battle Abbey and the site of the battle of Hastings. This is the second half of our 1988 visit to Bayeux, the Cathedral in France that had the Bayeux Tapestry telling the story of the Norman's and the Saxon's battle at Hastings. Part of the Abbey is now a school. £5.40 for two. After seeing the sights we read a brochure about the English Heritage Passport. £30 for two adults for free entrance to more than 300 historic sites in the United Kingdom. We were refunded the entrance fee when we purchased the passports. Left the Abbey and on to Pevensey Castle (Heritage). Walked into the castle ruins to find that it's closed 1-2 PM for lunch. Walked back out to find that the castle has the remains of a Roman Wall built in 240-310 AD. Went to the Information Center, nice lady assisted us to plan our lodging. She suggested to stay in Windsor since it's 20 minutes to Heathrow (picking up Kathy Tuesday morning).

The tourist office lady said she would ring the Windsor office and have the reservations when we were through seeing the castle (£2 reservation fee). Some of the castle towers were used by British and American soldiers during W.W.II. The place for prisoners was a hole in the ground reached by a rope, no other way out. £3.40 (two on the Heritage). Had an excellent lunch at the Castle Cottage. Clyde had turkey and I had to try the Steak and Kidney Pie. The freshest steamed vegetables were served with the Pie. The steak part was good, however, I didn't particularly care for the kidney taste. Lunch was £9.25.

We took the scenic route to Brighton, through Bexhill, Eastbourne and Seaford. We were told that the Seven Sisters would be a beautiful drive today. It was pretty, rolling hills and lo and behold there were white cliffs (pure white) and the Eddiston Lighthouse in the water. This is what we missed in the rain at Dover. Photos of the pretty cliffs, the White Cliffs at Sussex. We stopped at the Eastbourne pier and took photos, beautiful grand hotels along the waterfront.

We stopped at Brighton by the Royal Pavilion. It looked like we could park for 2 hours but needed a voucher. A lady parked next to us said we were illegally parked. We asked about the voucher and she said she had an extra one and gave it to us. She vacated her space and we parked there. We walked around the Pavilion. George V built the palace in Indian style. Beautiful tulip gardens in Victoria Park. Drove by the palace pier, condemned and falling apart. Looks like there could be a lot of ghost stories here. Time to return to London and the B&B in Windsor.

The friendly lady at the castle information center gave us 4 versions of directions to find the B&B, we thought we would never find it. London was approximately 50 miles from Brighton. It seemed like we were going through too many roundabouts. Finally arrived at Maidenhead but couldn't find Mill Lane. We were low on fuel, gassed up and asked where Mill Lane was. Unleaded gasoline was 48.9 pence per liter. The fill up came to £17.50. We drove past the B&B, it was closer to Windsor. Returning the same roads, we finally arrived at the B&B after 8 PM. We spent an hour looking at the maps to determine if we could get to Scotland, Ireland and Wales. Scotland doesn't look feasible for this vacation. In bed at 10:30 PM.

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Day 8 - Tuesday, 5/11

We're picking up Kathy at Heathrow at 9 AM. Early breakfast this morning, 7:30 AM. Breakfast is the same as the other B&B's plus 3 small fresh mushrooms. Met a couple who lived 15 minutes from Windsor. They were entertained at the races Monday night and thought they didn't want to drive after the races. They reported that they won a few races and lost a few, sounded like they had a good time. The wife said he was hung over, but they would be fine. They left for work from the B&B, that would be a fun thing to spice up the work week. They have a house in France, near Bordeaux. We left the house after making reservations for the night before we leave, Thursday, 5/27. We're still having problems finding M4 and Heathrow at 8:45 AM. After going in at least two wrong directions, we arrived at Heathrow at 9:50 AM, only 50 minutes late. Clyde waited in car while I went to get Kathy. She was there waiting and wondering what she was going to do if we didn't get there. Kathy had a good flight, direct from San Francisco.

We drove through Windsor thinking we would stay there to see the castle, but needed to find a place outside of Windsor as the traffic was terrible. We decided to drive west one hour to Chepenham. The visitor center found a Farm House, the Hatt Farm 7 miles from Bath for £45 for the three of us. We ate lunch on the way to the Hatt Farm, The Pheasant (pub), £20 lunch and lager. Carol Pope was the hostess and had been at this farm for 20 years. Our room had a beautiful view of the fields. Carol said portions of the old Roman Road were on their property. Kathy is down the hall and we're sharing the bath, no other guests are here.

Kathy showered and put on traveling clothes, she looks good for staying up all night. We soon left for Castle Combe and Biddestone, the historically preserved villages. It was quiet there, we arrived just about closing time for the shops (5 PM). We went on to Bradford on Avon, walked around and had a pint at the Dandy Lion Pub. We walked further into town and had appetizers for our dinner as we had a late lunch, £11.50. Back at the B&B at 8:45, we only took the wrong road twice.

Day 9 - Wednesday, 5/12

This was the best breakfast so far, stewed fruit, yogurt and scrambled eggs and the best plum jam (homemade). The room was nice and quiet, finally! We're off at 9:45 to Stonehenge, it's cold today and soon started to rain. Stonehenge was only 45 minutes away. I got on the plastic rain coat, good idea as it rained while we were there. Hope some of the photos would come out in this weather. The seven ton monoliths, some were moved from as far away as southwest Wales (240 miles) by the Welsh on rafts. The site was first used 5,000 years ago. It achieved its greatest development in 1500 BC. We stayed about 90 minutes, several people there even in the rain. Kathy also bought an English Heritage passport.

Looking at the Heritage map, we located the Nunney Castle, an historically important Norman Castle build about 1200. It was mostly ruins and a place for the birds to nest, interesting. We arrived at Bath about 3 PM, parking was £2.20 for four hours. It was just a short walk to the ancient Roman Baths. Proceeding through the restaurant to the Baths, violins were playing to the diners. Roll 411, 20, 21 and 10. The Baths were interesting, the ruins were well preserved and were still being excavated. Many school groups were touring the Baths. Clyde noticed the two ladies from the 5/8 B&B (outside Ashford). They were having lots of fun going everywhere. The combined ticket for the Baths and the Costume Museum was £5.00 each (not on Heritage). We found an antique shop before going into the museum, only 5 minutes to look. I found a neat 1917 presentation sword that sells for £200, imagine getting that on the plane! Clyde didn't care for it, so we left that treasure for someone else.

The Costume museum had clothes dating back to the 1500s including the underwear with the hoops and bustles. Sure glad I didn't have to wear those things! We were getting hungry and wanted to find the oldest (more than 300 years old) tea shop in Bath, Sally Lund's famous and tiny shop. We ordered tea and buns with strawberry jam and cottled cream, wonderful! £11.16. We walked by a book store and purchased an atlas, the roads finally got to us, we needed help.

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Earlier in the day I had asked Carol where laundry facilities were, she said she would do it for us. As I was wearing something I wanted washed, we said we would return early evening. When Carol saw the two bags of dirty clothes, she knew she was in for more than she bargained for. We returned to Bath for dinner, parked the car in same Car Park (garage), only 40 pence after 6 PM. We walked to the Pultney Bridge. The bridge was beautiful from the garden side, nice tulips. We walked around the bridge, seeing oarsmen with their boats, the other side was less scenic. We walked to the New Royal Theater, then to dinner at an Italian Restaurant. A nice Sicilian couple, excellent meal. Clyde had chicken, Kathy and I had pasta and a bottle of excellent red table wine. We asked to buy a bottle, the 3 carafe equivalent bottle normally sells for £24, but he would sell it to us for £20, we said no thanks. £33 for dinner.

Returning to the farm about 10 PM, we bought Carol a bottle of champagne for doing our laundry. We asked Carol to join us, she said they were having a whiskey. When Mike found out that Kathy was from San Francisco they came in and talked with us for about an hour, very enjoyable. Mike traveled in the States in the 60s driving truck for a company, even to Alaska in December in -40 degree weather. His second home was Australia and lived there in his youth. However, his dad's farm needed attention and came home. Kathy asked if they were going to have a garage sale. He replied they already had that as Mike likes a 'tidy' farm. They donated old mining equipment from the old farm. Off to bed late tonight, 11:45 PM. We were very appreciative for Carol doing the laundry.

Day 10 - Thursday, 5/13

We're up at 7:15, another good farm breakfast and off at 10 AM. Carol gave us instructions to South Wales and to Ireland. She added, don't stop in the bad parts of South Wales, it's 'grotty' (icky)! Taking M4 to Wales, stopped to see the Chepstow Castle that was built in 1017, the first Norman castle built in Wales, very big. Several groups of school children touring. Chepstow was half price for Heritage members, £2.90 for the two of us. We bought cards, T-Shirts, and tea towels for gifts. Kathy bought a pair of £32 shoes for £10, good buy, off again at 1:40. Green and red are the colors of Wales. The dragon is the symbol.

Drove by (photos) Caerthelley Castle which was built in 1268 on 30 acres by Earl Gilbert Clare. Castell Coch, a Victorian Gothic castle built by two men in love with the Middle Ages started work in 1875. Lord Bute and architect William Burges took credit for this 'new' castle. Drove on to Fishguard, we didn't know what time the ferry's crossed to Ireland. Arrived at the ferry at 5 PM, all quiet, only two crossings a day. Our choice was to wait until 3 PM the next day or stay awake until the 3 AM crossing. After reviewing the choices, we chose the 3 AM crossing. Had tea and scones £3 for the three of us. Bought wine, soda and candy for the crossing, £6.50. To pass the time, we had a late dinner at the Old Coach Inn advertising pints of lager for 99 pence. Clyde had fish & chips £4.50, Kathy had prawns £6.50 and I had chicken curry £4.00. Dinner totaled £20.00. Stayed there until 10 PM, raining the entire evening. We walked around the corner to the Algokyn Pub and talked to three Welsh people until 11:30. The ferry office opened at 1 AM. Crossing and insurance came to £210.50. The cars were boarded at 2:15, we rented a cabin for £20.00 (4 bunks, shower/toilet). We slept good after sharing the bottle of wine. Right on schedule, we arrived at Rosslare Harbor at 7 AM, drove right by the customs booth, no one was there. A good map was included with the 5-Star Auto Insurance.

Followed signs to the John F. Kennedy memorial, his family originated from the Wexford area. Gates were closed until 10 AM, drove on to Waterford to the glass factory. The office was open at 8:30, very cold out. We made reservations for the first tour at 10:15. Driving into the city, we looked for the recommended Bewleys breakfast bar. The breakfast was just like the English breakfasts. Returned to the factory, the tour was interesting. Blowing glass looked tedious and exacting, requiring extreme concentration. No photos allowed in the factory as it distracted the workers. An apprentice is trained for 5 years as either a blower or cutter. The blowers work in teams of 4, one master craftsman will learn 40 patterns. The 'test' for a master crafter consists of 3 - 22 hour attempts in making a bowl approximately 6" round and 4" high with several types of cuts. The most difficult is the deep S cut. Once the apprentice successfully completes the bowl, Waterford gives the bowl to the new master. The tour took about 45 minutes. Tours available Mon.-Fri. Kathy bought a vase for her and her mother for \$300.00 Waterford has three plants in Ireland and 18,000 employees. Engravers require the 5 year apprenticeship plus another 5 years for a master craftsman.

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The first crystal works in Waterford was founded by the Penrose family in 1783. The crystal they made in Waterford was notable for its purity of color which was unmatched by any glasshouse in the world at that time. The Penrose brothers sold the business in 1799 to the Gatchells and from then on the business declined, due mainly to a lack of capital and severe duties imposed on crystal exported from Ireland. It finally ceased production on 1851. In its brief existence the Waterford plant had established a remarkable reputation for its products that has transcended the intervening centuries. In 1947 a small factory was set up in Waterford to revive the art of glassmaking in the city. From humble beginnings the business grew, becoming eventually the largest factory of its kind in the world. The traditional deeply incised cutting patterns made famous by Waterford's artisans in the 18th century became the basis for the growing product range of the new company. There is to-day the same dedication to purity of colour, to the same design inspiration, and adherence to the highest quality levels possible. Each piece of Waterford can be recognized by the signature on the base, the word "Waterford" the name of the finest crystal in the world.

Went back into town and exchanged English pounds for Irish Pounds, £202 British, minus fee for cashing checks, bought £198 Irish. We stopped for stamps and noticed a crystal and antique store across the street. Liam owns the Deise Crystal Company. During the past few years, Waterford Crystal had layoffs of over 1600 craftsmen. These workers started 4 - 6 small crystal companies, Deise is Gaelic for Waterford. Crystal was about 25 - 35% less than Waterford Crystal. We both bought an 8" vase £80.00 each (including shipping and duty). Kathy got Liam £5 down on a beer glass with the name of the pub we were going to have lunch at, Bridgieterrie. £15 Kathy/Eleanor had Chicken curry (not as good as Fishgard) and Clyde had roast beef. With ale and lemonade, lunch came to £17.50. We called for reservations at the B&B we wanted to stay at. A tour bus from Canada came in for lunch as we were leaving. A lady asked me if I lived nearby. When I said I was from California, she said she thought with my coloring that I was Irish.

Drove on to Ardmore, the prehistoric seaside village with a round tower and ruins. One building dated 1030 and a very old grave yard. We were following directions to Kinsale as Kathy had a San Francisco write up of a highly recommended B&B in Sandycove which was south of Cork about thirty minutes. The country was beautiful, with views of the Atlantic. Arriving at the B&B at 6 PM, we both had en suite rooms at £15 (Quid) each. Myrtle (hostess) had two other rooms rented for Friday for parents and daughter/husband from New Jersey. Kathleen (maiden name was Murphy and was from Ireland).

Day 11 - Friday, 5/14

Leaving the B&B at 10 AM for Blarney to kiss the lucky stone and see the Blarney Castle. Ireland has bright yellow brush like bushes, FRUS. The yellow fields that we thought were so pretty in England were RAPE Weed which was grown for it's oil. We filled the tank, the first in Ireland and more expensive. A total of 23.38 liters filled the tank, gas was 59.9 pence per liter for a total of £14. Had the car one week today, 1,177 miles so far. The Rover was averaging 40 miles a gallon of gas.

The stone was at the top of the Blarney Castle, climbing 120 steps to the top of the castle to kiss the stone. A man sits by the stone and helps lower you to the stone. I took off my glasses so I couldn't see. Clyde followed me then Kathy didn't think she could do it, but finally did. The castle was 5 km from Cork City) the famous stone supposedly has the power of conferring eloquence on all who kiss it. The word 'Blarney' has found its way into the English language and has been described as pleasant talk, intended to deceive without offending. The stone is set in the wall below the battlements and to kiss it one has to lean backwards (grasping the iron railing) from the parapet walk. The castle home is a Scottish Baronial House, with a view of the Blarney Lake. We walked through the gardens, the flowers were pretty. It started to rain. Bought sweaters at the gift shop. Lunch was good at a pub in town. Clyde had fish & chips, Kathy had chicken curry and I had corned beef & cabbage, tea and 2 pints lager were £20. After shopping, we left Blarney at 4 PM.

The Battle of Kinsale took place in 1601, photos of the Church of St. Multose, the first building in 1066. Kinsale is Ireland's second most important city and is the capital of Munster. The attractive harbor shelters it from the harsh North Atlantic storms. From its earliest days, Kinsale has been a renowned port that has

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attracted successive waves of 'visitors', from the invading Anglo-Normans in the 12th century to the tourists of today. Kinsale is a place for the discerning visitor. It is regarded as the Gourmet Capitol of Ireland. It is not an Irish 'shamrock and shillelagh' town. The Desmond Castle once housed American prisoners during the War of Independence. In fact, Kinsale's archives contain a letter from George Washington thanking the citizens for their kindness to the captives. Other historic interests include Charles Fort, one of the best preserved star forts in Europe), Desmond Castle and St. Multose Church. It was at the St. Multose Church, built in 1190, that Prince Rupert proclaimed Charles II king after Charles I's execution. Passing by the yachts, we drove to the Old Head of Kinsale with lighthouse, ruins and cattle. The mighty German ship, The Hood, went down off the Old Head of Kinsale.

Going to the pub in Kinsale on Saturday night. We had a great time at the 300 year old Seanachai Pub on Market Street. Met 3 generations of Irish women, the youngest was pregnant, her mum and gran were visiting from London (recently moved there). Her husband came in later. We were impressed with gran drinking beer. Everyone was singing with the singer and local customers, we exchanged phone numbers promising to call when we returned to London (no time, next time).

Day 12 - Saturday, 5/15

We left Myrtle's B&B at 1:30 Sunday, slept in today since we didn't get home until 1 AM. Excellent breakfast today, homemade nut bread. Myrtle gave us detailed instructions on getting to Skibbereen and a B&B recommendation. Kathy's cousins invited us to dinner at 2 PM on Sunday, raining the entire day. We arrived at Skibbereen and got involved in a 20 minute traffic jam at the cathedral (noon mass). Got fuel, 10 liters at £58.9 pence per liter for £6.

Kathy's cousin, Maurice, met us at the Post Office at 2 PM, good thing we never would have found the farm. Kathleen Murphy was married to Kathy's dad's (Dave Murphy) brother. Maurice (Kathleen's son), Betty, Kathleen and the 3 boys lived at the 40 acre farm. We were offered a whisky and Irish Cream. We bought a big bottle of red wine and Kathy gave them a bottle of Port. It was a big Sunday dinner that they fixed for us. Roast, potatoes, carrots and cabbage. Big portions, a good home cooked meal. After dinner a fruit type salad was served with Irish cream, the cream was delicious. Kathy and I did dishes, then we had tea and an apple pastry that Betty made.

We had an enjoyable day. We left at 5:30 PM for the Lakeside B&B (reservations previously made) that Myrtle had recommended, £15 each. It wasn't the best B&B even though it had an electric blanket which had 1 setting, HOT. The heaters were turned off at night and on at 7:30 when the owners were up (Anthony and Mrs.).

Day 13 - Sunday, 5/16

The shower had hot water for only 5 minutes. Even though the heater was on, the house was cold. We ate fast and left for the Ring of Kerry at 9:30 AM. It was cold and overcast; the forecast was for clear weather.

The night before, over a bottle of wine, we figured two routes. We had plans for a nice day and a raining day. Good thing, as it started to rain. We were in a major rain storm. Plan two bypassed Kerry and arriving early (1:30) at Dingle we stopped at Walker's Pub for Irish Coffee to keep warm. After the second coffee, we took two rooms at the Townhouse B&B. Clyde napped while Kathy and I shopped. Our umbrellas blew inside out twice, but we continued until we hit all the shops and my feet were getting wet. The plastic raincoats we bought paid for themselves today. Kathy bought a sweater, I bought a Galway Crystal salt & pepper shakers at McKenna's. The crystal was 20% off, closing out that pattern, £39 less VAT refund. Kathy and I had one more Irish Coffee about 5 PM, we told Clyde we would be back after the shops closed to get him by 6 PM. We decided to have dinner at the Side Door, an excellent seafood restaurant. This was our big splurge on lobster dinners, £80 with tip. Went to a pub that had traditional Irish Music, the place

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was packed. We stayed for an hour and then left for one more at Walker's Pub. The traditional music was good and there were plenty of available seats. We retired for the night at 11 PM.

Day 14 - Monday, 5/17

The Townhouse B&B had a menu to select breakfast, NICE! Kathy and I had French toast and Clyde had the traditional breakfast. It wasn't raining, cloudy with intermittent clouds, much nicer today. We drove around the Dingle Peninsula, about a 2.5 hour drive. Kathy stopped at the gallery (met the artist at the Side Door) and bought a picture.

Tralee Bay had the prettiest color of water. Fueled up, 31 liters at 59.8 pence per liter came to £22 (plus candy). The car had been making noise that sounded like power steering problems. The attendant filled the fluid container and we were on our way. We had lunch in Listow at a fast food carry out, burgers and fries for £6.50. After 30 miles near Listow the car started to make the same noise. Pulled into a gas station and called AA for service at 3:15 PM. A local mechanic replaced the faulty hose and we were on our way again at 4:15, good service and we were glad that we purchased the insurance. We paid £5 for the part. We drove to Tarbert to catch the ferry to Kurush (saves 100 miles around the bay), £6. The ferry was ready to leave and we were the last to get on and away we went for the 20 minute ride. Our next stop was the Cliffs of Moher. We decided to find a B&B about 8 PM, getting tired. We found one in Lahinch for £14 each.

Day 15 - Tuesday, 5/18

The B&B was next to a golf course. Nice hot showers! The Cliffs of Moher rise 700' for 5 miles and reach their maximum height at the O'Brien Tower. Today is the prettiest day of our trip. The Aran Islands are visible, this is where the legendary Aran sweaters are made. We drove north to Galway passing the Doolin Tower. We agreed that we needed to head west by 3 PM to get to the ferry by 8 PM. Kathy navigated us to see the historic places she had on post cards. First stop was Kilfinora Village with the Doorty Cross in St. Fachman's Cathedral. The Cross was a 12 century limestone High Cross built in 1190. The original church was built in the 6th century. On to Leamanieh Castle which was built in 1480, an important O'Brien stronghold. The remains are of a tall oblong tower and attached to a 17th century high gabled house of four stories. In 1651, Cavor O'Brien died here of wounds received in defending the Pass of Inchicronan against the Cromwellians.

Next stop is the Poulnabrone Dolmen, set in the heart of the Burren Region of Clare. A megalithic tomb, some 4,000 years old. The sign in front of the barbed wire surrounding the tomb, says 'No Entry'. Since there were people in the field of stones, we climbed the fence and walked closer to the tomb. Rocks were everywhere. Went by the Dunguarie Castle, one photo. Next stop was lunch at Morans Oyster Cottage where they have been serving seafood for over 200 years. Lunch was £28 and fuel was £10. Took photos of the Kilcolgna Castle and as planned, we headed east at 3 PM. We were told it would take 5 hours to get to Dublin, they didn't know Clyde's driving! We arrived at Dublin at 5:30 PM, however, it took another hour to get through Dublin and find the ferry port of Dun Laoghaire (south of Dublin). We were taking the ferry to Holyhead, North Wales and had reservations for the 11 PM crossing. The office opened at 7:30, we walked to a pub and had chowder, 2 wines and smoked salmon for £10.20 (the bill should have been £20.20, oh well!). We got on the 9 PM crossing, good thing, we didn't want to wait there another two hours. We tried to get a £40 refund as Stena Lines offered a £138 trip from 14 April to 19 May with a Wednesday return. The clerk said he couldn't give a refund, we would have to check with the ticketing office. He did sign the voucher indicating that we returned on the required Wednesday meeting the conditions of the special. We decided to deal with Stena and Bank of America once we got home for the refund.

We saw signs which indicated the Value Added Tax (VAT) forms had to be approved by the Customs office in the Ferry Building, not on the ferry as we had been told. We found the customs office, with 10 minutes to boarding, Kathy and I had our VAT forms signed for the refund. The paperwork had to have name, address and passport number. Eleanor had 2 and Kathy had 5 forms. We had just enough time to get to the car. The ship and cabin were not as nice as our trip to Ireland, smaller and smellier. The cabin was hot, didn't

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have a shower or toilet. We shared a bottle of wine and tried to sleep. Clyde couldn't stay in the cabin and left to get some fresh air. Our wake up call was at midnight, cleaned up and left the ship to find a B&B, we didn't get much sleep on the ferry. Clyde received a recommendation for the Haven Hotel, the double was £25 and twin was £15 with the toilet down the hall.

Day 16 - Wednesday, 5/19

We slept in, had a good breakfast and left at 10:30 for Caernarfon Castle, where the Prince of Wales was named. The B&B owner said the town of Caernarfon has gone down hill the last few years, too many drug users. We decided to drive to the Beaumaris Castle. The Beaumaris Castle was the last genuine medieval fortress to be built by Edward I, and, in fact, was never completed. A large children's playground was in front, a nice setting. Kathy realized she left her alarm clock at the B&B, we returned and they had it.

Heading back south, the traffic got to one lane over the Bridge to Bangor, I took 2 photos of the old bridge and the Anglessey area. It was now 1:20 PM. We arrived at the Caernarfon Castle to find the story of Queen Eleanor's son, Edward was the first to be named the Prince of Wales at the Caernarfon Castle in 1301. The castle was restored in the past 100 years, nicely done! £3.50 (each) fee, free with English Heritage. We then drove to Conway and had lunch at the Fish & Chips, Kathy and Clyde had fish & chips and Eleanor had HOT chili, was it good! £15.50. We stopped at a market and bought wine and Coleman's hot mustard, £7.52. We walked to Conway Castle and found the Information Office to arrange a B&B for the next two nights. We were to stay at Mrs. Hughes in Betws-y-coed, £17 each for the double room and £15 for the single. The en suite shower in our room was a portable shower, interesting!

Day 17 - Thursday, 5/20

We left at 9 AM to drop our laundry off, 3 loads came to £7, not bad. Next stop was the Trefrin Woolen Mills for tour and shopping. Thomas Williams bought the mill in 1859 and it has been functioning for at least 30 years. It has been owned and run by the same family since. Nice self guided tour to see how the wool is made. Shopped for gifts at the store, left at 11:15, still misty but not raining much. £16.01 gas and £1.72 for candy (Kathy paid). Rode the train, £34.20 for a round trip of 13 miles. Beer and sodas on the train came to £3.75. Pretty scenery in the mountain area, wild Rhododendrons (purple and yellow) everywhere. After the train trip, we took photos of Delwyddelam Castle (couldn't see much from the road). Stopped at the Italian Village of Portmerion, £3 each to get into the private village. Since we only had one hour and the shops closed in 30 minutes, we didn't go in. We picked up the laundry, it came to £10.50 since she had to do 4 loads. I hung the undies all over the room to dry as her dryer would melt the nylon. She said our cotton clothes take longer to dry than theirs. Kathy noticed that 2 of her Turtleneck sweaters didn't come back. We returned Saturday morning, and they were there.

We had pub grub at the Waterloo bar in Betws-y-coed, £21, lamb curry, prawn curry and fried chicken. We took a long walk home through the town, too bad the shops were closed. The Bryn Conway Guest House, our B&B in Betws-y-coed was owned by Hefina Hughes. The portable shower worked OK, the water was hot.

Day 19 - Saturday, 5/22

We have had the car now for two weeks, 2000 miles so far. We followed A5 toward Stratford on Avon, Shakespeare country. Stopped at Wroxeter, the Roman City, £1.70 each on the Heritage. Wroxeter was the fourth largest Roman city in Britain, AD 49 - AD 400, photos. The largest standing Roman wall is here. One area of the ruins had been the market area with stalls somewhat still visible.

On to Stokesay Castle, the newest Heritage acquisition, £2.20. One of the most perfectly preserved early fortified manor house left in England was built in the 13th century by a wealthy Ludlow wool trader. The manor included the castle, parish church and a gatehouse. Forty five manor houses were built along the

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Wales and England border to protect from pillaging. Interesting, too bad we didn't have more time. Got gas, 24 liters for £12.20, made 219 miles on this tank.

We arrived at Stratford about 2:45 PM, the Information Center got us rooms at the Hunter's Moon for £16.50 double and £18 for the twin, total of £50. We had to go to the B&B as soon as the reservations were made, the office said too many people make reservations and never show up. We were told the rooms were small, that was an understatement. We had to store our luggage in the shower when we slept. We went back to town and called Stephanie for a room Sunday night. She was full, but said to call back in 15 minutes and she would get us a place. Called Stephanie back in 30 minutes, she found us a B&B at the Royal Windsor (friends of hers).

We decided to have a nice dinner tonight and went to Sorentos Restaurant (not a pub tonight!) We ordered anti-pasta and mussels, Kathy and Eleanor had Cannoli, Clyde had steak and sautéed potatoes. With wine, dinner came to £56.10, good dinner! Stopped and bought a bottle of wine for £5.78 and stopped at the Oddfellows Pub, photo of Englishman napping his ale off.

Day 20 - Sunday, 5/23

Up and about early today, driving back to London. We arrived at Anne Hathaway's Cottage (Mrs. Shakespeare), photos. Anne was a heiress, she and William lived here and raised their children. Nice big cottage and beautiful gardens. The cottages didn't open until 11 AM (here at 10 AM), drove on to Mary Arden's Cottage, William's mother. The Shakespeare Trust bought this home in the 1840's when the Americans wanted to buy it for a front for plays. The cottage was purchased for £3,000 (according to a driver we talked to). Drove back to Stratford to tour William's home to find the real story. John and Mary Shakespeare was a wealthy Stratford financier. He and Mary bought the house in 1540 (60 years old then). William lived here until he was 23 when he brought his bride (Anne) there to live and had all 3 children there. Anne was 8 years older than Willie and some reports said they didn't get along too well. Willie moved to London when he was 29 (with or without Anne and the kids, no one knows). He became successful as an actor and built the Globe Theater, then became the playwright and becoming very rich. They moved back to Stratford to retire and passed away there. Anne lived a few years after Willie. Portions of the cottage had original roof and floor, otherwise it was a tourist trap. Entrance fee was £2.50, not on the Heritage Pass.

Charles Dickens bought the cottage in 1840, this acquisition became the Shakespeare Center. Had a sweet roll and tea for £3.81. Walked by the City Hall and old pubs, interesting structures. Left Stratford for Chipping Campden at 1 PM. Photos of the Shire Horses and the Shire Horse Center, big horses like the Clydesdales. Chipping Campden was nice with light brown brick buildings that were all the same. Had lunch at the Noel Arms Hotel, the oldest Inn in the village, built in 1651. £15.90, most of the shops were closed on Sunday. Photos of St. James 15th century church where Lord and Lady Hick, first viscount of Campden were buried in the 17th century.

In the Kiftsgate Court Gardens you'll find the world famous Kiftsgate Rose (over 60 feet tall), is a mass of delicate white blooms and heralded as the largest rose in England. Chipping Campden has houses dating from the 14th to the 17th century and the oldest in town has a high arched doorway to accommodate packhorses loaded with fleeces. This is a reminder of the importance of the wool trade, so vital to the country that to this day the Lord Chancellor sits on a woosack in the House of Lords. The ruined 13th century Hailes Abbey, to the south of Chipping Campden, stands as a reminder of the Middle Ages when pilgrims flocked from all over Britain to see its vial of Holy Blood collected at the Crucifixion. At the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539, the relic was opened and found to contain a mixture of honey and saffron. The clerics at Gloucester Cathedral, the main part of which dates from 1809, cared for the tomb of King Edward II who was murdered at nearby Berkeley in 1327. There are also memorials to Edward Jenner, who discovered smallpox vaccine, and John Stafford Smith, the son of the cathedral organist, who composed the tune that was to become the Star Spangled Banner. See the Pillar Garden at Hidcote Manor near Chipping Campden, pretty pottery shop and the Broadway Tower viewing point.

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On to Oxford, stopping in Woodstock and followed the signs to the Blenheim Palace. Blenheim Place is the home of the Duke of Marlborough and the birthplace of Winston Churchill. Beautiful lake, bridge and palace which closed at 5 PM.

Hit a major traffic jam at a round about in Oxford, it took us 45 minutes to get through. Arriving in Windsor at 7 PM, we went to Stephanie's B&B for directions. We followed Freddie to the Royal Windsor, that was nice of him! £48, £32 double and £16 for single. We walked up town and took photos of Windsor Castle. Had dinner at an Indian Restaurant, Clyde had lamb, Kathy Shrimp and Eleanor had soup, with wine £28.

Day 21 - Monday, 5/24

Up at 6:30, good breakfast. I couldn't take the full English breakfast any more, had Bran flakes, yogurt and toast. Took Kathy to Heathrow at 8:55 for her return flight home. We decided to take the scenic route to Cornwall. Stopped in Salisbury for fuel at 10:15 and finally got the car washed, it looked new again! £12.30, 25.20 liters. Stopped at the Old Sarum Castle, £1.30 each (Heritage). Originally a huge Iron Age hill fort which was later occupied by the Romans and Saxons and finally by the Normans who built the Castle, Cathedral and bishops palace. Beautiful views of the countryside, however, it was hazy today. Drove through Wilton, took 2 photos of the Wilton House, King James I home. Didn't go in, not enough time, £2 for later use. Went to the Wardour Castle to find out this was the 'new castle' being restored and was privately owned (had been a school). The old castle ruins were 1.5 miles away (1 photo). The 14th century castle was involved in the 1643 Siege of Wardour when Sir Edward Hungerford led the Parliamentarian attack. The castle was badly damaged and surrendered after a few weeks. The castle is now partially restored. Bought guidebook as we found the ruins interesting and that Wardour's sister city is Old Annapolis MD, £1.30 (Heritage).

As we were heading to Ludwell, the cars were flashing their lights at us when they passed. Thinking our lights were on or a flat tire, we pulled over only to find a policeman with radar. People let others know the police and radar are near with flashing lights. We have seen more police today than the entire trip! 12:38 PM, Rolls 143 (Clyde's roll). Next stop was Sherborne Old Castle, £1.20 each (Heritage). Cromwell laid siege to the castle in 1645. It was 16 days before the castle surrendered, whereupon it's defenses were dismantled. Sir Walter Raleigh leased the castle from Queen Elizabeth. The castle was later owned by the rector who tried to restore the castle. He gave up and continued to live at the castle and worked at the abbey in Sherborne. We had a great lunch in Sherborne, Leek & Potato Soup and split a tuna sandwich. For dessert, we had the best raspberry ice cream, double cream made the old fashioned way. £7 for lunch.

At 5 PM we phoned for reservations for 3 nights in Boscastle at the 300 year old Coach House £14.50 a night with continental breakfast (even Clyde was tired of the full breakfasts). While we were in town, we quickly walked through the Launceston Castle, beautiful country side £1.20 (Heritage). The castle was originally built in the years after the Norman Conquest, the castle soon became a symbol of the power of the Earls of Cornwall. Mostly ruins (now being restored), signs indicated 13th century tower. Drove to Boscastle through Heller and drove over the Heller Bridge which has a 6'6" wide, 18' long limits to cross the tiny bridge.

We checked into the B&B and walked to the Napoleon Inn. Clyde had roast and Eleanor had Beef & Teddy (potato) pie. Pint of ale and lemonade with dinner came to £9.50. We drove the short 1.5 miles to the Boscastle Harbor as the walk back up hill would have done us in. Took the only sunset photos. The Atlantic looked as calm as the Pacific. It was a beautiful evening.

Day 22 - Tuesday, 5/25

It was raining and the outlook for the rest of the day didn't look good. Followed the map to King Doniert's Stone, circa 879 AD, photos. There are days on vacations where you should just stay close to home, today turned out to be one of those days. The rain continued, we thought we might get out of the rain if we drove

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east to Plymouth. Got gas, £16.90 and 33 liters. Took one photo of the Mayflower International Marina and took the free ferry to Torpoint. When we visited Plymouth MA, looking at the Plymouth Rock, it was said that pieces of the rock had been sent to various historic places including Plymouth England (we didn't see it here). The people we met at the Napoleon Inn and were staying at the same B&B said that Plymouth was actually the second take off place for the Pilgrims, the original departure was Southampton. I added that the Mayflower first landed at a point inside Cape Cod, then went to Plymouth. The Pilgrims started their voyage and ended it the same way. President Clinton doesn't seem to be popular in England (neither is their prime minister).

We took the bridge into Plymouth and decided to take another route back. Rain lightened somewhat, 3 photos on short 10 minute ferry. We decided to take the scenic route and followed the coast route. Narrow roads on this route, first opportunity we get to better roads. Found the Foway ferry, £1.30. While waiting for the ship, Eleanor got out of the car for photos of the harbor and slipped royally on the moss. I never have seen anything so slippery. Didn't hurt anything! A 15 minute ride to the ancient town of Foway. Looked for St. Catherine's Palace couldn't find it. Decided to find a pub for lunch and every thing was closed for lunch. Arrived at Falmouth at 3:15 and found the Prince of Wales Pub opened for lunch. Clyde had crispy white bait and Eleanor had mushroom soup. Irish coffee and lemonade came to £6.80. The soup was great, however, Clyde didn't eat his, it really was bait deep fried! The look on his face reminded me when I tried soft shelled crab sandwiches, not good! Walked back to the car stopping at the bank and bakery for meat & vegetable pasty and a safe egg sandwich for Clyde. We ate the food in the car, Clyde didn't like his sandwich. We're going home, enough of this.

We stopped at Tintagel, the legendary home of King Arthur for something for Clyde. Mikie liked his Stillton Cream soup with garlic!. Eleanor had garlic mushrooms with a pint of bitters and lemonade for £8.25. Took photos of the castle ruins, the old Tintagel post office and the newer King Arthur Hotel. Followed fisherman taking their pots of fresh crabs home. Back at the B&B to read the paper and get some rest. Clinton's \$200 hair cut and messing up traffic at LAX while he had his hair cut made the front page of the London Times and the evening news.

Day 23 - Wednesday, 5/26

We had a good night sleep. Out and about early today, 8:48 going to St. Michael's Mount near Lands End. The sun was out when we awoke (7:10 AM) but now it is sprinkling. The weather forecast on the news said early rain with clearing mid morning, we'll see! Arrived at St. Michael's Mount at 10:30 AM, the rain had stopped but the sky was still over cast. Went to Pirates of Penzance, got tea and pastry, £2.70. Got stamps and post cards and left for St. Michael's Mount, spots of blue sky was encouraging. £1 parking and £3 each to get into the castle (20P for guide leaflet). Same idea as Mt. St. Michael in France. Cornwall's version was called the daughter of the Normandy Abbey and Castle (much smaller). Stayed about 1.5 hours as the clouds came back in. The tide is out just 8 hours each day. We got on the last ferry as the walkway was partially covered by the ebbing water. It was a steep walk of stones to the castle. Beautiful views, photos of the outside (no photos inside were allowed). One of the German Field Marshall's during W.W.II planned to live at Saint Michael's Mount when Germany won the war. The property is still owned by a private family.

We had lunch at a cafe in Marazion (close to St. Michael's), Clyde had fish & chips and Eleanor had a fresh crab salad, delicious. Lunch was £11.00. Driving west to Lands End at 3:15 PM, hope we can see the cliffs, still overcast and cloudy. Roll 134 & 150 (Clyde's). Parking for Lands End was £1.50, we parked and walked down to the cliffs. The sun tried to come out, but didn't quite make it. We left at 4:35 PM for St. Ives. Filled up the car, going 139 miles on this tank. Gas was £49.9/liter, taking 27 liters for £13.50. Roll 407 & 141 (Eleanor's). We arrived at St. Ives just in time for the shops to close. The streets were really narrow and no place to park. St. Ives looks like a big beach town, looks nice!.

Returning to Boscastle for the night, we had dinner at the Napoleon Inn. Clyde stopped at a phone booth to confirm our return flight reservations. While he was in the phone booth I had to move the car as it was blocking a car. I then drove back to the Coach House. Even though it was less than 50 yards, Clyde was

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real nervous saying, I'm too close to the left edge of the road. I think it is more difficult on the passenger side than the driver side in driving on the British side of the road. Two nights in a row we had thunder storms, both times the electricity briefly went out. Three nights at the Coach Inn came to £84, nice people and good room and bathroom.

Day 24 - Thursday, 5/27

We checked out early Thursday morning, deciding to return to Falmouth to see the castles. Pendinnis Castle £2 together with St. Mawes Castle (across the bay) are testimony to the strength of the coastal fortifications erected by the Tudor monarch. Built to guard the mile wide entrance to the Carrick Roads, the most westerly safe anchorage in the channel. When attack came, it was from land by the Parliamentary forces during the civil war (six months to fall). The castle was left intact and rearmed during the Napoleonic Wars and both W.W.I & W.W.II. We looked for the King Harry Ferry to avoid the additional 40 miles around the bay. £1.70, we were the last car on this fifteen minute trip. Ships were anchored in dry dock close by. Roll #18 & 140 (Clyde) and Rolls #139 and 22 for Eleanor. The gate keeper at Pendinnis Castle told us to look for the St. Just Church after leaving the ferry, it was a beautiful setting. He added that so many people want to be buried there. Two and half miles from the town was the church which was in fact a very pretty place. Beautiful flowers and view, very old grave stones.

We had lunch in St. Mawes at the Victory Inn. Clyde had fish & chips and Eleanor had chicken curry. Pints of bitter and lemonade came to £8.85. The castle was on the Heritage, £1.30. Beautiful gardens at St. Mawes Castle. The castle protected the harbor since Henry VIII days from invasions by the French. Interesting Tudor architecture. The tower of Jewels were in bloom. I really like this small fishing village. The white buildings looked beautiful in the blue sky. It was so nice to have a nice day. The time was getting on, we had B&B reservations in Windsor and had many miles to travel.

Clyde agreed to one more castle break along the way at Okehampton Castle, £1.70 (Heritage). Once the largest castle in Devon, it was built after the Norman Conquest to help subdue the local population. In 1068, the land was given to top nobility. It flourished until 1539 when it was stripped and left to ruin. The owner excavated the ruins in 1913 - 1917. Restoration is now being done. It's now 4:30 PM, need to be in Windsor by 8 PM. Got 13.8 liters of gas, £7 to get us back to the car rental (tank is to be almost empty).

We took A303 to M3 to Windsor. We took A30, the scenic route to Cornwall. A303 has more dual carriage roads than A30. We'll get to Windsor about 8 PM as planned. The closer we get to London the heavier the traffic is leaving London. Monday is a holiday here as well (Bank Holiday) and looks like many people are taking an extra day and leaving the city. Holidays are referred to as Bank Holidays, which are public holidays. The British Memorial Day is in November. M25, around London, is called the London Orbital. Last roll for Eleanor is #12, last shots taken at Windsor Castle. We enjoyed seeing Stephanie and Freddie again. We left early, wanting to walk in Windsor. The shops opened and we bought T-Shirts and other souvenirs, nice shop. 40P for parking. We took the back roads to the airport returning the car to Kenning Car Rental at 10:15.

Day 25 - Friday, 5/28

Flew home.

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BRITISH & AMERICAN COLLOQUIALISMS

INTO LAYBY	=	ROADSIDE STOP
WELCOME BREAK	=	REST STOP
DUAL CARRIAGE WAY	=	4 LANE HIGHWAY
MIXED	=	ONE OF EACH
LORRIES	=	TRUCKS
BONNET	=	HOOD
MOTORWAY	=	FREEWAY
GROTTY	=	ICKY
TOILET	=	RESTROOM
GARDEN	=	BACK YARD
PUB GRUB	=	BAR FOOD (GOOD & REASONABLE)
SUNNY DAY	=	RARE
ROUNDAABOUT	=	INTERSECTION
FREE RANGE EGG	=	EGG RAISED ON THE RANGE, NOT IN A HEN HOUSE
FREE HOUSE	=	ESTABLISHMENT SELLING ANY LIQUOR
HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS	=	EXPENSIVE
B & B	=	REASONABLE & GOOD
CHIPPINGS ON ROAD	=	GRAVEL
WIND SCREEN	=	WINDSHIELD
ROUNDAABOUT	=	ROUNDAABOUT TRAFFIC HAS RIGHT OF WAY
CAR PARK	=	GARAGE
POGMA MAHON	=	Gaelic for KISS MY ASS!