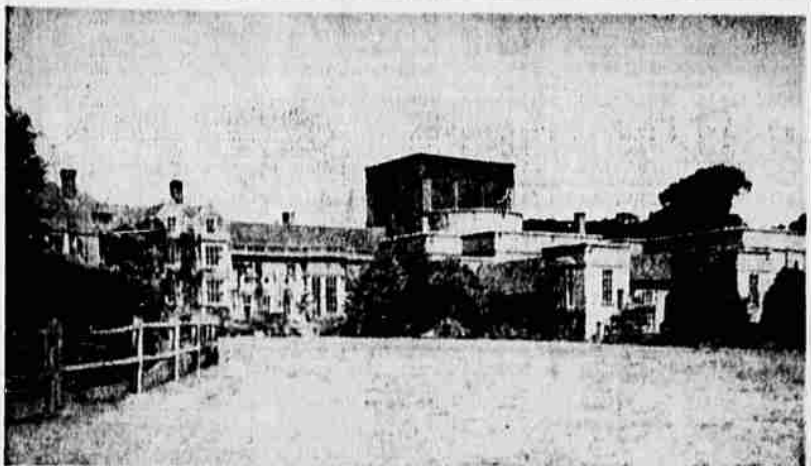




OLD WORLD CHARM—PLUS OPERA—unique and highly fulfilling experience—the Glyndebourne Opera. This view shows the private house, organ room and opera house as seen from the fields. (UPI Telephoto)

Good Music, Old World Charm Part of Glyndebourne Opera

London (UPI) — For persons who combine a love of good music with a fondness for old world charm and beauty, summertime England offers a unique and highly fulfilling experience — the Glyndebourne opera.

The opera itself is of top rank, but that's only part of the story.

There's nothing else in the world quite like Glyndebourne, whose season runs to Aug. 16. Consider the setting: A 400-year-old Elizabethan Manor house sitting amidst glorious gardens and lawns that have been cultivated daily for close to 1,000 years. In the Manor house a 750-seat opera auditorium skillfully integrated architectural with the original manse. And all of it, with its carefully clipped ancient yew hedges, surrounded by undulating green meadows filled with sheep grazing in the distance.

Toured Musical Festivals

Located in the rolling hills of Sussex 54 miles from London, Glyndebourne is the achievement of John Christie, a wealthy, dynamic Eton science teacher whose ancestors have lived at Glyndebourne since Norman times.

In 1931 Christie married Audrey St. John Mildmay, the daughter of a baronet and operatic soprano with the Carl Rosa Opera company. Together the Christies toured

ed the musical festivals of Europe — Bayreuth, Munich and Salzburg, to hear Wagner, Mozart and the other masters, and to wonder why England had nothing like them.

The ambition grew in the Christies to bring that kind of opera to England, and in 1933 Adolf Hitler came to power in Germany and helped them.

With the advent of Hitler, the great German conductor Fritz Busch left Germany in protest and took with him producer Carl Ebert. The Christies persuaded them to come to Glyndebourne, and with them came Rudolf Bing of Berlin's Civic Opera house.

Told of Dream

The Christies told these men of their dream, and Glyndebourne opera was born. Today, Busch is dead. Ebert is in his 70's and on the point of retiring, and Bing rules as general manager of the Metropolitan opera in New York. Mrs. Christie is dead, and Christie, at 77, is in semi-retirement.

But Glyndebourne lives on. In 1954 a special Glyndebourne arts trust was set up which now administers the opera. The first Glyndebourne festival was given in 1934 and it has been going ever since, most of the time under its own steam. Only once did it receive a government subsidy. Talent is recruited from throughout the world. A typical cast is apt to include Americans, Italians, French, Austrians, Germans and Canadians among others.

Going to the opera at Glyndebourne is unusual in many ways. For one, if you are going up from London you find yourself donning evening clothes — evening dress is "recommended" at

Glyndebourne — in mid-afternoon to catch the 3:45 p.m. Glyndebourne special from Victoria station. For another, if you have been to Glyndebourne before you likely will pack a picnic basket.

The Glyndebourne establishment offers a fine dining room plus a buffet counter, a well-stocked and comfortable bar and lounge, and flowered terraces on which to sit and sip coffee and brandy.

Champagne Goes Along

But many prefer the lark of picnicking, evening clothes and all, on the grass amid Glyndebourne's lush gardens and lily ponds. And since this is not something anyone gets to do very often, Glyndebourne picnicers are prone to packing a bottle or two of Champagne along with the roast chicken joints, sandwiches and pickles.

Glyndebourne's management makes possible either dining or picnicking in leisurely style. The evening this writer first saw Glyndebourne, lured by a magnificently sung "Der Rosenkavalier," the three-act opera was broken by two long intervals. The first was of half hour duration, long enough for a cocktail and a walk along the terraces and through Glyndebourne's luxuriously furnished sitting rooms.

The second intermission was an hour. Those who had dining room reservations repaired there, but the greater number by far collected their picnic baskets from the cloakroom or their cars, and headed for the lawns and gardens. Glyndebourne, founded by John Christie has said, "is a survival of the old fashioned courtly values firmly rooted in the modern world." And it is just that.

Cubana Airlines Feeling Pinch by Gasoline Firms

Havana (UPI) — Cubana Airlines, the government air carrier, faces the loss of millions of dollars within a few days if the major oil companies do not resume its credit for gasoline throughout the world, sources close to the airlines said Saturday.

The British-Dutch-owned Shell Oil Co. and the American-owned Esso and Texaco companies, all three of which had their Cuban facilities confiscated this week, reportedly have given the airline a mandate that it must pay cash for gas at overseas air terminals or its planes will go unfueled.

The three firms service many of the major overseas airports.

The companies said last week that the Castro government owes them nearly \$70 million for oil they have imported here within the past year.

Caught by Surprise

The squeeze by the companies apparently caught Fidel Castro by surprise. Recently he boasted that Cuba had enough aviation gasoline to last 52 days.

Cubana was feeling the pinch shortly after the Esso and Texaco refineries were confiscated.

Cubana Flight 407 to Madrid was cancelled when the airline was informed by Shell that the company would refuse to refuel the flight at Bermuda and Lisbon.

A flight to New York Saturday had its passenger load cut from 102 persons to 132 to allow the plane to load extra gasoline for a round-trip flight without having to refuel in New York.

There were reports that flights to Miami also will have to take on extra fuel.

WRONGWAY PATROL

Raleigh, N. C. (UPI) — A highway patrol traffic safety ad which appeared in newspapers here showed a patrolman standing beside a parked squad car facing the wrong way on a one way street.

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