

Many Castles Now Occupied On Hotel Basis

By CLAIRE COX
 United Press International
 New York—(UPI)—No one will accuse today's traveler of building castles in the air when he says he is going to dine at a table once surrounded by Hapsburgs and sleep in a bed owned by a duke.
 Today's travelers to Europe may occupy a room in a German castle with a bona fide Hohenzollern ghost or swim in an Austrian count's swimming pool without accepting an engraved invitation.
 The fact is that there are about 75 castles in the British Isles and on the European continent that accept paying guests, on a hotel basis. Of these, more than 40 are represented by Castles of Europe, Inc., a New York organization that serves as "castle representatives" for titled folk who no longer can afford to maintain their historic estates without help from tourists.
 Leo Shanley and his wife, Jeannine Moran, a Canadian born concert artist, formed Castles of Europe in 1959 both to help preserve the ancient structures and to provide tourists with something different in the way of accommodations.
 150 Worthwhile

"There are about 150 really worthwhile castles in Western Europe," Shanley said in an interview. "Including ruins and all, maybe there are 1,000. Jeannine had studied castles and antiquities when she was studying voice in Europe. She saw all these magnificent places empty and felt they should be occupied."
 Mrs. Shanley visited all the castles to which she could gain admittance and laid the groundwork for a network of castle accommodations to fit almost any budget.
 "All of them are different," said Shanley, a member of a famous restaurant-owning family. "Some are operated on a formal basis, others are quite informal, but most offer a house party atmosphere that releases the inner man."
 Shanley said "perhaps the height of castle experience" is in staying at Bernstein castle in Austria, which stands on a foundation built by the Romans and commands a 125-mile view in every direction. The castle boasts an olympic-sized swimming pool constructed by the owner and operator of the establishment, Count Allmassy, for his wife, a champion swimmer, after she suffered from polio.
 150 Guests

The former summer castle of Prince Khevenhuller, once the reigning Prince of Carinthia, a southern province of Austria, can accommodate 150 paying guests. The 17th century baroque structure boasts central heating, although most of the castles must close in winter because keeping them warm, in Shanley's opinion, would be like trying to heat the Rock of Gibraltar.
 The most expensive of the castle accommodations is offered by the Duke of Bedford at his 3,000-acre Woburn Abbey, on the English countryside. He charges \$100 per day per person. The cheapest is at Schlossfreyenturn, on the Werthersee, in Austria, where one may occupy a room in a medieval castle redesigned as a French manor in the 18th century for a mere \$7 a day, including meals, or \$4 on the European plan.
 Ten major French chateaux are included on the Shanley roster, including the Chateau de Lanet, at Aude, an authentic 11th century castle owned by a woman cook-dietician and her physician husband. They offer individual menus guaranteed either to put on or take off weight.
 They limit the number of guests to 15 at a time, and for \$8 a day, provide not only a room but will prepare 15 different menus at each meal throughout the day. Included also are concerts of medieval music and hunting and fishing.
 The castles are situated in Ireland, England, France, Germany, Austria and Denmark.

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