

# Tours Planned for Conventioneers

The months and weeks 'til Convention time are flying by and it is time to let you know about the trips that are available to singers and non-singers as well. The Eastern Division is looking forward to sharing some of our beauty, history and culture with you.

## Old Sturbridge Village

Spend time in a popular living history museum that depicts early New England life from 1790 to 1840. Sturbridge Village, a Massachusetts treasure, provides the opportunity to meet and talk with costumed historians and craftsmen at a farm and a water power mill as well as homes and buildings in a small village setting. Take a stagecoach ride, enjoy lunch at one of the fine restaurants, and visit an excellent gift shop.

## New York Botanical Garden

NYC Botanical Garden in the Bronx is one of the premier botanical gardens in the country. During the summer months, they will feature an exhibit inspired by the work of French Impressionist, Claude Monet. Included in this tour will be an audio tram ride, the



The Essex Steam Train and Riverboat take riders back to a gentler time along the scenic Connecticut River.

Library with several of Monet's paintings on display, and other special gardens. Lunch on your own is available in the cafeteria, and there is an excellent gift shop.

## Essex Steam Train and Riverboat

Enjoy a peaceful trip into the heart of the Connecticut River Valley aboard a restored steam train and a riverboat, the Becky Thatcher. The train travels through a picturesque countryside of meadows, farms, a millpond and waterfall. From the riverboat you will see quiet coves, marshes and beautiful bird habitats. Historical sights include Gillette Castle, Goodspeed Opera House, and the Haddam Swing Bridge. The day continues with a stop for lunch, which is included in the cost.

## Mark Twain and Harriet Beecher Stowe Houses

Did you know that two of America's most famous authors of the 19th century were next door neighbors in the Nook Farm Section of Hartford? Mark Twain's house, considered, at the time, to be one of the oddest looking buildings to be designed as a dwelling, has unusual architectural and decorative features and includes work by Louis Comfort Tiffany. Twain wrote some of his most famous books while living in the house from 1874 to 1891. Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of the anti-slavery novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, bought her home in 1873, and lived there until her death in 1896. She authored many books and articles and is considered to have been the Martha Stewart of her day. A book written for American housewives contains her thoughts on child rearing, housekeeping, cooking and interior design. Her cottage style home reflects her ideas. After the tour your bus will return to New Haven.



Mystic Seaport, a sea-faring village with its tall ships.

## Mystic Seaport and Olde Mistick Village

Mystic Seaport, "A Museum of America and the Sea," gives you the opportunity to climb aboard historic tall ships, such as the Charles W. Morgan, the only surviving wooden sailing whaler. The 19th century seafaring village contains all types of buildings including homes, a school and a church. It also features many general and specialized trades such as a cooperage, a sail loft, a rope walk and a chandlery.

The trip continues at picturesque Olde Mistick Village, a delightful spot for shopping. It even has a Scandinavian store, called Bestemors (meaning Grandmother's in Norwegian). A variety of restaurants, sandwich shops, bakeries and ice cream shops is available.

## Foxwoods Resort Casino

Founded by the Mashantucket-Pequot Indians in 1986 as a Bingo Hall, Foxwoods has become the world's largest casino. The facility contains over 7,000 slots, table-games, Keno, Bingo, Poker and high tec Racebook. There are more than 25 dining opportunities and a variety of interesting shops. Take time to enjoy the unique architectural features throughout. Each person will receive a package pro-

viding a ten dollar meal allowance and fifteen dollar gaming coupon. The Mashantucket-Pequot Museum is close by and can be easily reached by shuttle from the Foxwoods Hotel Lobby. Among the life-sized displays is a 16th century Indian Village. There are many interactive exhibits as well.

## New Haven on Your Own

New Haven is a city made for walking. The area around and within a few blocks of the Omni Hotel is full of historic and cultural interest. A walking tour of Yale University starts with a 1700 building and nearby statue of Revolutionary War Hero, Nathan Hale. At the tour's end you will see the beautiful Beineke Library with its priceless Gutenberg Bible. Nearby are the Churches on the Green. Center Church has a basement crypt which contains the grave of the wife of the infamous Benedict Arnold who worked as a pharmacist in an apothecary near the Green. Two notable museums are just a couple of blocks away: the Yale Center for British Art and the Yale University Art Museum have



The shops and restaurants at Olde Mistick Village are quaint and welcoming!

world-class collections. Four blocks from The Green is the Peabody Museum of Natural History.

## How to Sign Up for the Tours

In the very near future each chorus will receive registration forms for the trips. Dates, prices and other pertinent information will be included. You will be asked to return your trip form by April 15th along with your Convention registration. Please note that each trip requires a minimum of 40 people. In the event that a trip must be eliminated we will contact you with an opportunity to join another trip.



Visitors talk with authentically costumed history interpreters at Sturbridge Village. Don't mention TVs or phones, because they will ask you what they are! They play their part as 19th century citizens well.



The Mark Twain House in Hartford is architecturally interesting.