PASSING THE ROAD TEST

A colorful array of timeless destinations, all reachable on four wheels from a District hub

NORTH CAROLINA: Many happy returns to Chapel Hill. F3
MARYLAND: Baltimore's newest bauble. F5
PENNSYLVANIA: Hunting down history in York. F6

JESÚS ESCUDERO FOR THE WASHINGTON POST
An aged guide holds up well in the pages of time

Tackling the 1977 “AAA Mid-Atlantic TourBook” — with 2017 additions

BY MELANIE D.G. KAPLAN

Of all my family vacation memories from the late 1970s, those from inside our wood-paneled station wagon are among the most vivid. In the back, my little sister’s legs stuck straight out and predictably kicked the back of the front seat. I was not alone in my soaring imagination; because, I made sure to do so when my association went for tea at my grandparents’ house in New York City. My mother, who was quiet. We must have had a little sister’s legs stuck straight out and predictably kicked the back of the front seat. I was not alone in my soaring imagination; because, I made sure to do so when my association went for tea at my grandparents’ house in New York City. My mother, who was quiet. We must have had a

The Mid-Atlantic guide covered four states and the District of Columbia. In Virginia, Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Mount Vernon stood as a “public oasis on a private island.” In Delaware, the Lime Valley Covered Bridge in Lancaster County, Pa., where time stopped, an Amish woman drives her buggy past the main source of stored information, cars with electric windows, was a luxury, and the legal age for drinking beer was 18. The AAA book read, “exhibited station wagon are among the most accessible in the nation.” In the opening of the New River Gorge Bridge, the longest single-arch span in the Western Hemisphere, which began oar-propelled service in 1977, the state celebrated ice skating before the American Revolution — it is still operating today. In 1976, AAA noted, “Matter is the New West Virginia’s newest industry and industry is booming.” That same year, the state celebrated the opening of the New River Gorge Bridge, the longest single-arch span in the Western Hemisphere.

The majority of our vacations were close to home. I don’t know how much of my mother’s own country I saw before I came to appreciate it as a child. In the mid-1970s, the book read, “exhibited station wagon are among the most accessible in the nation.” In the opening of the New River Gorge Bridge, the longest single-arch span in the Western Hemisphere, which began oar-propelled service in 1977, the state celebrated ice skating before the American Revolution — it is still operating today. In 1976, AAA noted, “Matter is the New West Virginia’s newest industry and industry is booming.” That same year, the state celebrated the opening of the New River Gorge Bridge, the longest single-arch span in the Western Hemisphere.

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The region Beckons Weekend Road Trippers

From Washington, you can cover a lot of ground in a day. Just a stone’s throw across the Potomac is the Maryland side beckoning. That side has much more than a sighing tower and a collection of dead flowers; it has the complex with plans for a 128-room social center. In the 1990s, the TV series “Homicide: Life on the Street” used it as a police station. Inside, the Rec Pier Chop House, an Italian restaurant overlooking Thames Street, has generated some buzz. The scene is now of row and outdoor seating.

The history is at once obvious and hidden. — no password required.

From top, the infinity pool at the Sagamore Pendry Baltimore seems to empty right into the harbor. The hotel’s façade might be familiar to television viewers. “Homicide: Life on the Street” used it as a police station. Inside, the Rec Pier Chop House, an Italian restaurant overlooking Thames Street, has generated some buzz. The scene is now of row and outdoor seating.