

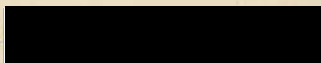
Royal Empire Society Competition. 1954-55.

CLASS

C. 2nd Prize

Name - Mary Angharad Huws.

Date of Birth -



Home Address -

244 Park Rd.,

Cowes,

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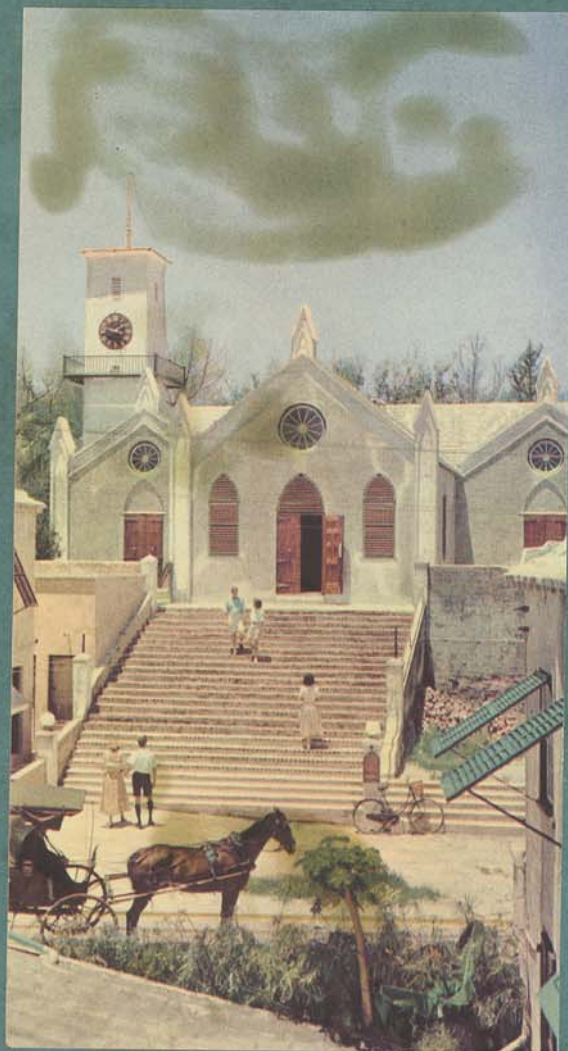
Le Bon Sauveur Convent,

Holyhead,

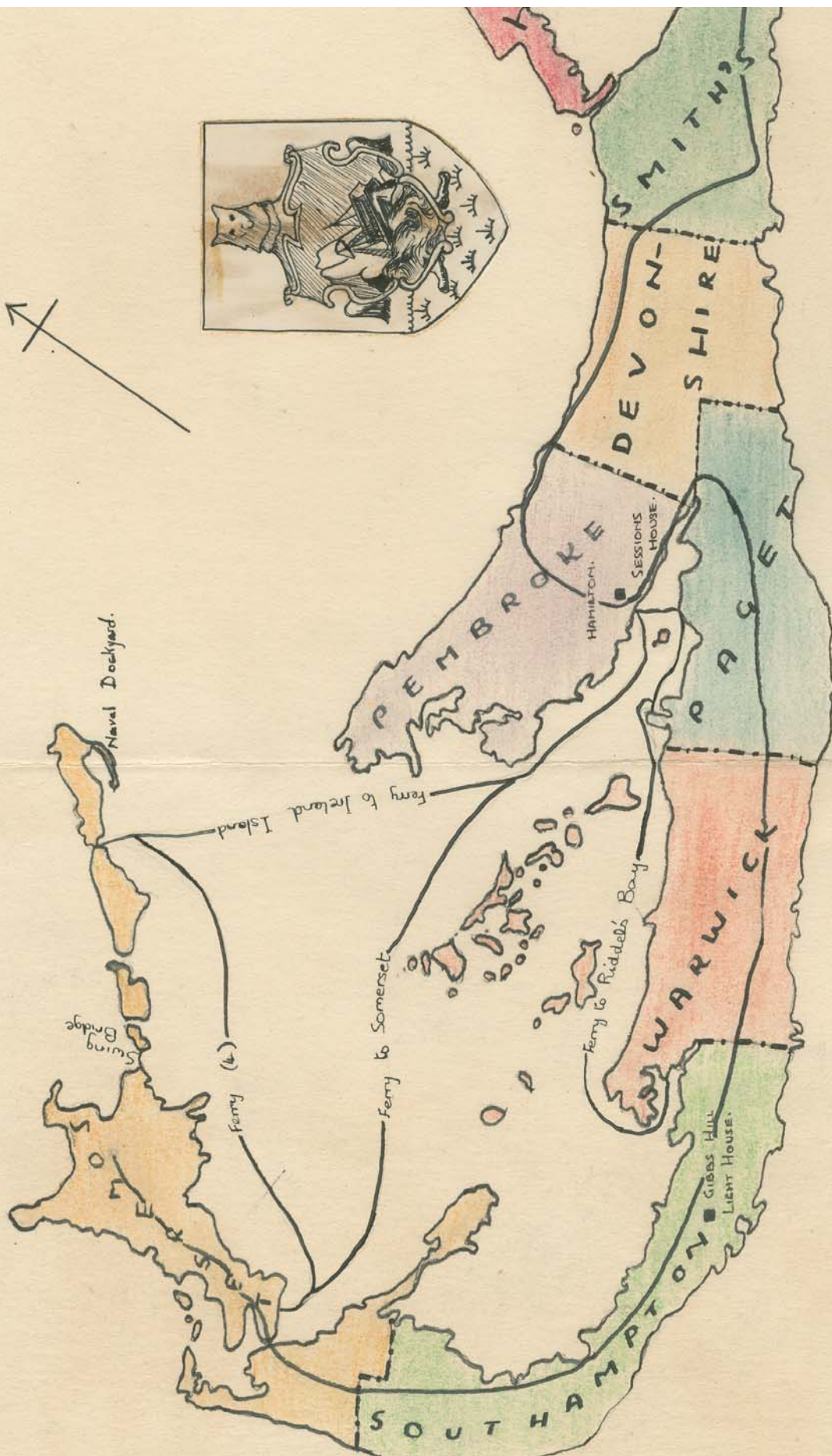
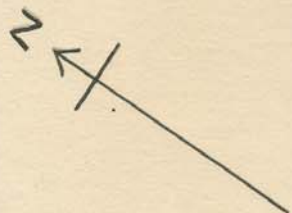
Anglesey,

Nth. Wales.

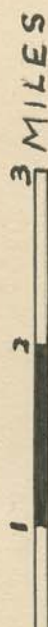
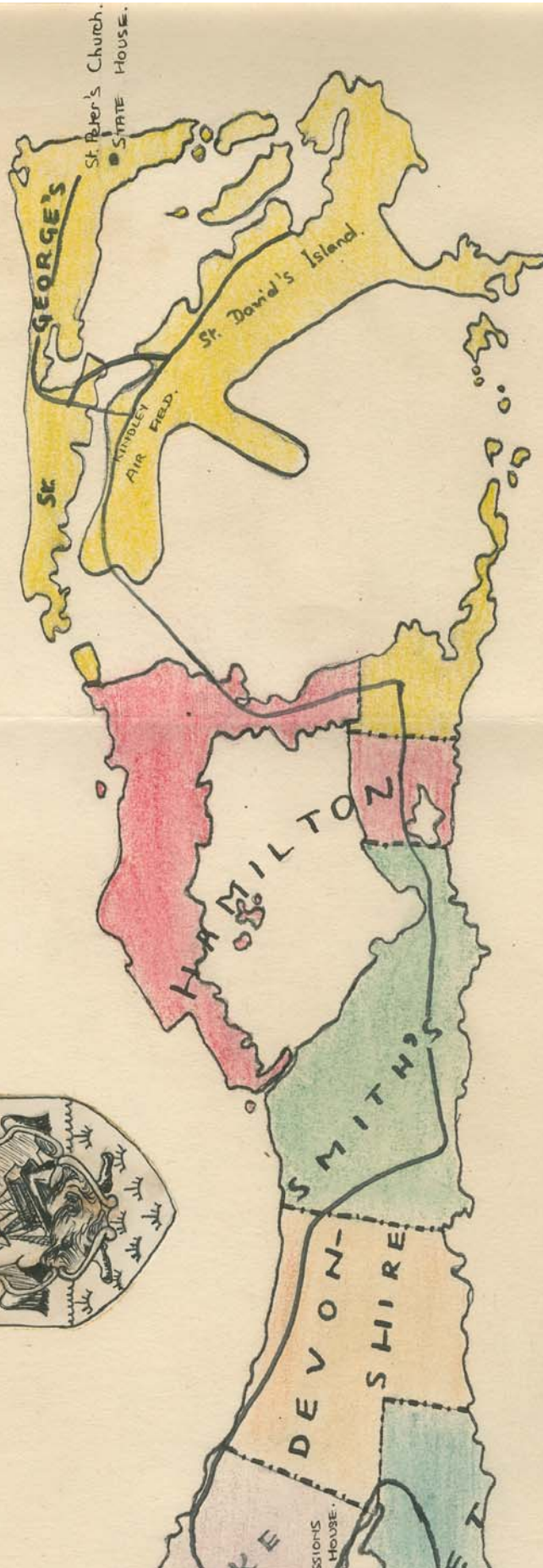
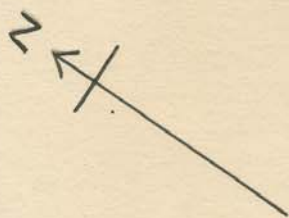
Give a description of any one of the British Commonwealth and Empire countries other than your own, which the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh have visited during their tour.



QUO FATA FERUNT



BERMUDA



BermudaAnonymous

Where the remote Bermudas ride
In the ocean's bosom unespied,
From a small boat that row'd along
The listening winds received this song:
'What should we do but sing His praise
That led us through the watery maze
Unto an isle so long unknown,
And yet far kinder than our own?'

So sang the poet Andrew Marvell as he described how a group of colonists bound for Virginia were shipwrecked on the treacherous coral reefs which fringe the islands of Bermuda. The wrecked colonists found the islands abounded with wild pigs and the seas were teeming with fish of all kinds. They were able to build boats from the wreckage, in which they could continue their voyage to Virginia, but they did not forget the group of beautiful islands. The story of the shipwreck caused intense interest in England and people thought of the islands as a paradise. Poets like Marvell wrote

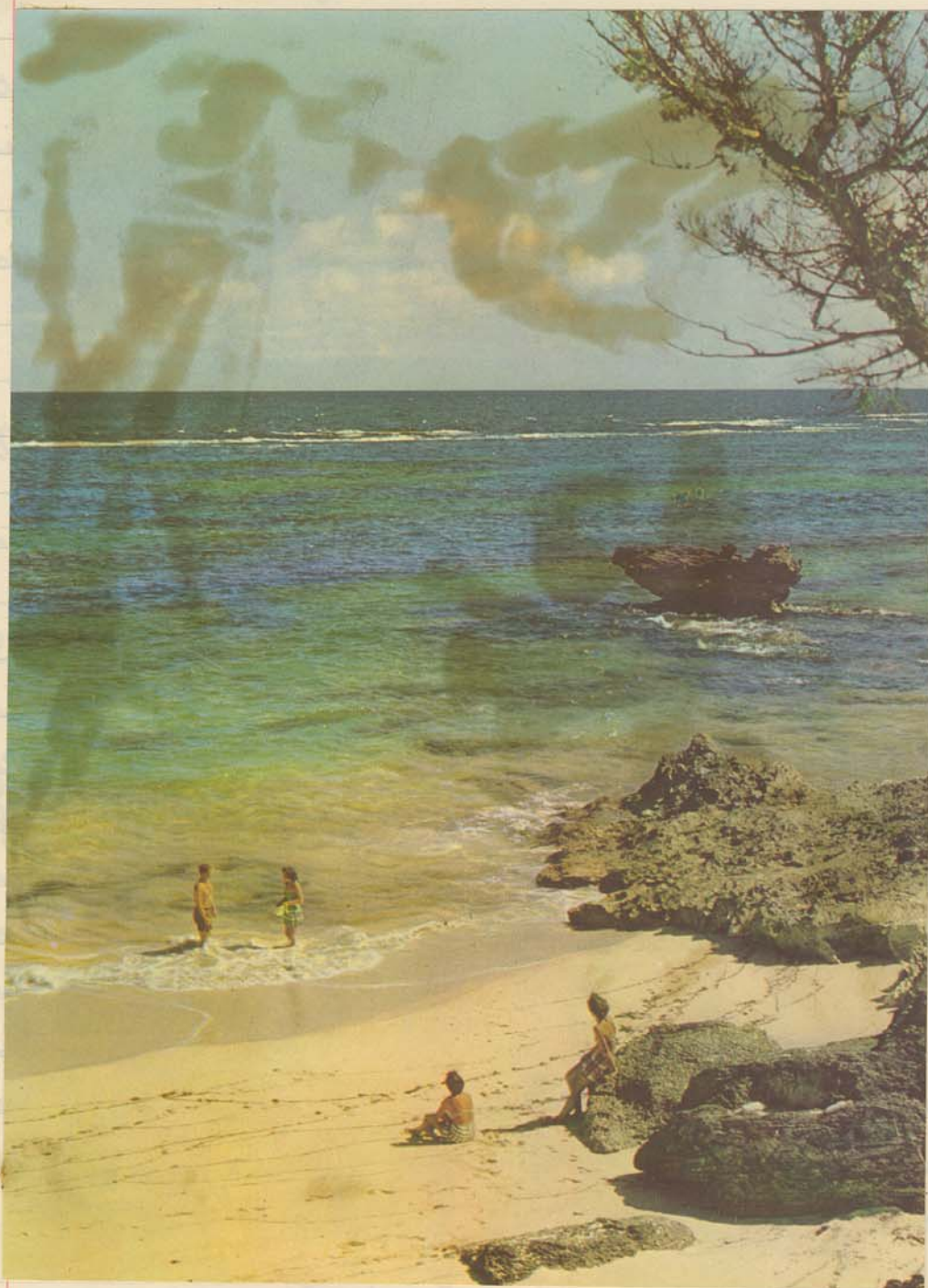


Traffic keeps to the left as in Britain.

of them, and Shakespeare took islands like them for the scene of 'The Tempest.' Six years later, in 1615, a company was formed to settle in the Bermudas, as they were called, as an English colony. "So long unknown," sings Marvell, for it was a hundred years since the islands were first discovered by a Spaniard, Juan de Bermudez, after whom they were called. Bermudez was wrecked on the same surrounding coral reef, and it is supposed to be the wild descendants of his cargo of swine, which provided food for Sir George Sommers and his shipwrecked English in 1609.

The people of Bermuda are intensely proud of their colonial Parliament, which is, after Westminster, the oldest in the whole Commonwealth. There are white and coloured Bermudians, and all have a vote to send members for each of the nine Parishes to the House of Sessions now at Hamilton. There is no income tax in Bermuda, and no death duties are paid, but no one may own more than one property.

Bermuda is a group of over three hundred islands lying surrounded by a coral reef which is the most northerly in the world, and is only there because of the warm Gulf Stream.



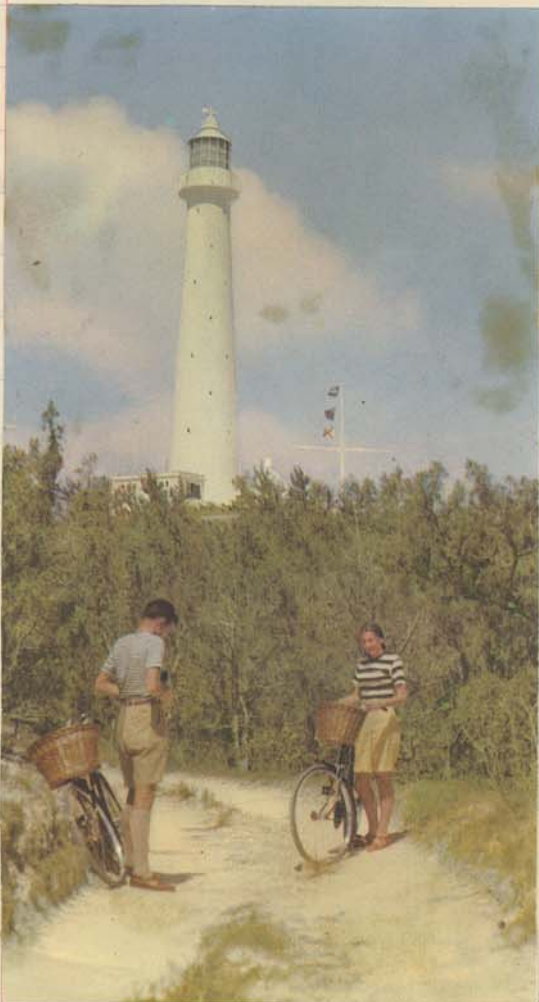
Waves breaking over the Coral Reef — which
can be seen only from the air.

Angharad Huws.

The total area of the islands is only about 22 square miles, and only some ten of the islands are inhabited. They are joined by embankments and a road runs right across them from east to west. Bermuda has a very pleasant climate, with just enough rain for the growth of trees and many flowers, but with sun all the year round. The Bermudian winter is about as hot as a good Holyhead summer, though their summer is not too hot as they are cooled by the sea breezes. The sunshine makes the sea a lovely deep blue and the wind covers it with white frothing foam which beats against the rocky coasts. This rocky coast is full of fascinating caves, and shelters



perfect beaches of pale pink sand made of quartz and coral. As the rock is limestone, the



Gibbs Hill Light House
in
Southampton Parish

Though the Light House
is only 300 ft. above sea
level the whole of
Bermuda is visible from
the top of the Light House

This is the smallest
draw-bridge in the world.
It is in Sandy's Parish
between Somerset Island
and Boaz Island.



Angharad Huws

rainwater seeps into the rock and forms weird though beautiful stagmites and stalactites in the caves. There is one disadvantage though in the rainfall disappearing into the ground - it goes straight into the sea and so there are no streams or rivers or even springs, and so Bermuda has to rely for her water supply upon the rain-water which is carefully lead off the roof of each house into underground tanks which keep it cool. Sometimes water has to be imported from America! Bermuda never sees frost or snow.

Bermuda's houses are startlingly white, as by law all the roofs must be white-washed, so that the drinking water may be clean. When you want to build a house you choose your site and then have the rock quarried in



Angharad Huws.

slices as when freshly quarried it is quite soft, though it hardens as it is exposed to the weather. The whole house is built of the local stone, including even the roof. The builders take long saws and cut off the stone for the roof as though it were bread! You can then use the old quarry for your water tank.

Because Bermuda has such an attractive climate, and is so beautiful many tourists come there every year, in fact the tourist trade is almost the only trade of Bermuda and the source of her revenues. Britons seeking sunshine can go there by air or by one





PRINCESS HOTEL - overlooking
Hamilton Harbour.

Angered Huws.

of the Cunard liners. Americans come mostly by plane, and they come in their thousands. One little island is even called "Honeymoon Island"! As tourists are so important for Bermuda, they are very well catered for. There are a great many hotels, from small ones taking twelve visitors to



ones like the Princess Hotel taking over four hundred guests. If you like dancing to reggae





orchestras you can have it, though I think perhaps it must be rather difficult to get away from the noise of music at night. I would not mind as I like it. There are golf clubs with courses running down to the sea, and tennis



courts, football and swimming, but perhaps the two favourite occupations for visitors are water-skiing and yachting. You can fish and you can go 'fish-hunting' with a diver's helmet on your head. That is the first thing that I should do - after a bathe, of course, in really warm water! Swimming about under the water amongst fish of all colours and sizes must make you think that you are in another world.



BERMUDA -



Tourist's Dream.



Angharad Huws.

Bermuda has an Aquarium which has the greatest

assortment of tropical fish to be found in captivity. It is here that you 'fish-hunt'; only naturally, you may not come up with any



catches. You can

also fish for turtles with lines baited and not hooked. The turtles seem to know there are no hooks, for they always rise, and are large and fat. Unfortunately for them many people find turtle soup very good.

Bermuda has really very little agriculture, as there is not very much room on the islands for (trees) fields. She has enough cows to give her most of her daily supply of milk, but the rest is imported. There are a few goats on the uninhabited isles, but no sheep. Portuguese farmers grow small crops of potatoes, carrots and arrowroot, and there are many citrus trees here and



Crimson Poinsettia



Hibiscus



Night-Blooming Cereus



Oleanders.



Bougainvillea

there. St. David's Island used to be the centre for Easter Lily cultivation, but the fields have had to be turned into an airport, and the lilies transplanted. The lily bulbs are world famous, but with the speed of air travel, even the flowers are sent to America. Flowers of all kinds grow in profusion, and make the islands look like one glorious garden, for the hedge-grows of the tiniest lanes consist of packed masses of such flowers as bougainvillea and poinsettia. One of the few and most interesting industries of Bermuda is Perfume making. This is a long and complicated process, which makes the perfume very dear. The blossoms are picked fresh every morning and laid upon trays or rather boxes of wax which absorbs the perfume. The scent of the lovely Passion Flower is so delicate that it takes a hundred days for the wax to take it up.

Bermuda used to be justly proud of her cedar trees, but a few years ago they were attacked by a parasite and now they are nearly all dead. Her Majesty the Queen, planted a cedar tree during her visit to Hamilton, one of a million in a reforestation scheme. This is



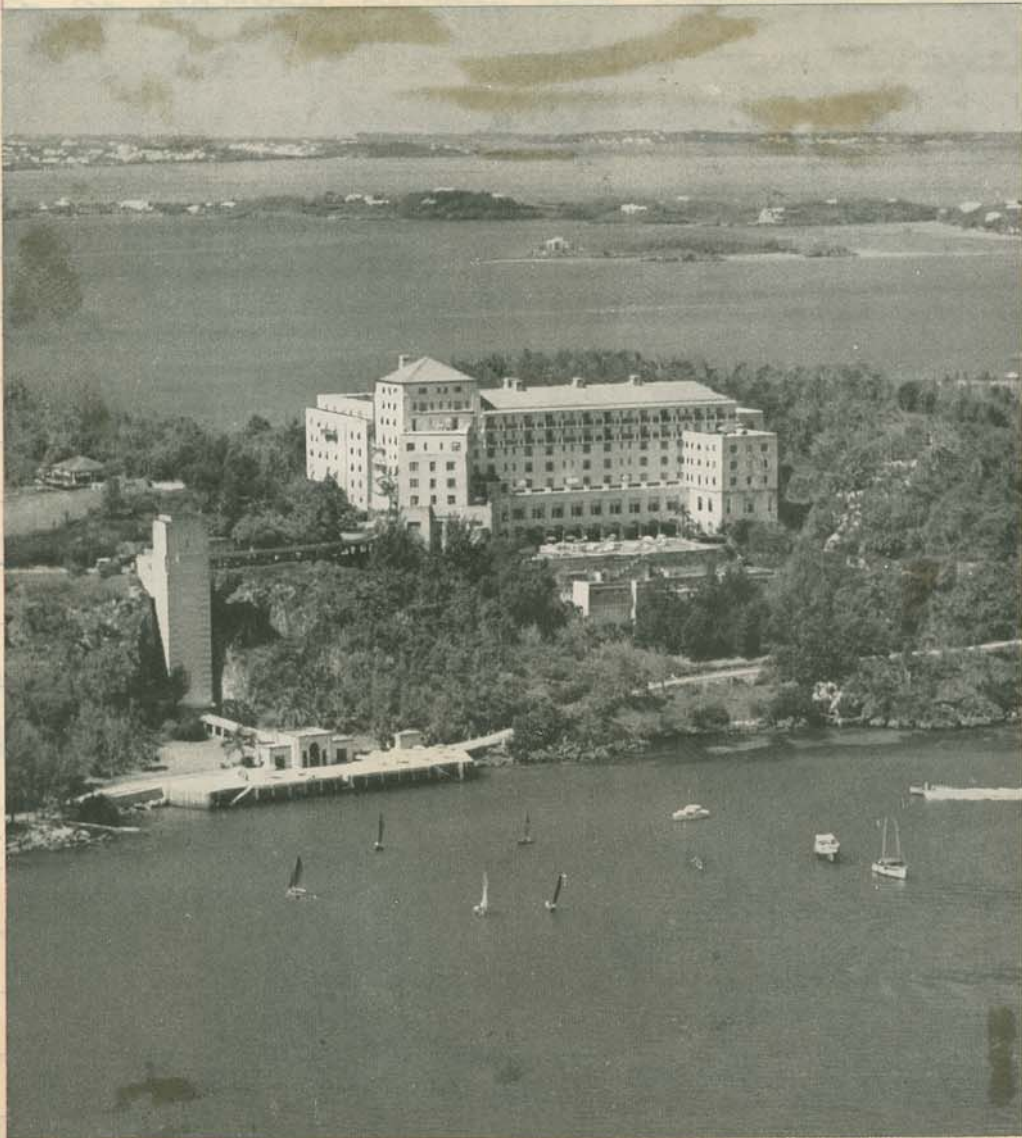
Who wants a
car in Bermuda,

when travel can be
done like this?



one of Bermuda's big worries, another is the traffic problem. Up to 1947 the Government had allowed no motor cars on the public roads except ones for the fire engine, ambulance, and dust-cart. It is said that one Governor even resigned his appointment as he complained that he was not allowed to drive in a car, though the garbage did so! Now, although the size of cars and their speed is restricted, Bermudians are finding that their beautiful lanes were evidently not made for motor traffic, and that a once peaceful country is now disturbed by the throb, splutter and bangs of bicycles with motor-aids.

On St. David's Island in the east of Bermuda there is the U.S. airport and base. This is where the Queen landed when she visited the island. She then drove to St. George's, the old capital of Bermuda, and named after the discoverer, Sir George Somers. At one time the whole group of islands were called the Somers Islands. We leased the base on Bermuda to the United States in 1941 for 99 years. We had had a Naval Dockyard at the other end of the island since 1813, and also a military post



CASTLE HARBOUR HOTEL - overlooking
Harrington Sound and Castle Harbour.
In the distance are a few more of
the Bermudas Islands.

but both had to be closed last year as we have not enough money, sailors or soldiers to keep them going. The Bermudians were very sad to see the soldiers go on the ship which was to take them home to Britain and they sang "Auld Lang Syne". The Union Jack still flies proudly over the Sessions House.

Bermuda - Bibliography.

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 Film - "Bermuda Bound"

QUO FATA FERUNT.

