

APRIL 2009

# HORIZONS

AAA Southern New England

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Members Saving

## Move Over Rule Aims to Save Lives

By *Christine E. McDermott*

When Hazel Kelly heard the door at 6:30 in the morning on Feb. 20, 2004, she was first angry that the barking dog would wake her sleeping baby grandchildren.

Walking down the hall, she saw her gray-faced husband talking to police officers and knew something was seriously wrong.

But she refused to believe her son Timmy had been killed in a car crash. "He's in a tow truck," she said. "No one can get hurt in a tow truck."

However, Timothy Kelly was not in his truck when the drunk driver came barreling down the highway. He had been returning to his home base at A1 Affordable in West Bridgewater, after finishing a AAA call, when his truck broke down on Route 495 in



## A Window Into Teddy Roosevelt's 'Summer White House'

By Alan R. Earls

Theodore Roosevelt may be one of the most memorable American presidents, but his home is not nearly as well-known as shrines like Mount Vernon or Monticello. But don't let that keep you from visiting this treasure on the northern shore of Long Island.

Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, the private home of our 26th president, provides a window into the life and times of one of America's most famous citizens.

After spending summers in Oyster Bay as a child, Roosevelt chose the spot for his own family's home and began building Sagamore Bay in 1884. He almost abandoned his plans when his young wife, Alice, died two days after giving birth to a daughter.

Later, when Roosevelt remarried, it became a constant

the house is accessible only through guided tours and, particularly in the summer, the tours fill quickly. Even if you can't get in right away, the wait is worth it since the National Park Service has guides who know the house and Roosevelt intimately and can discuss almost any detail of the property and its furnishings — like the inkwell made from a rhinoceros foot.

Although Roosevelt embraced many aspects of modern life — he was the first president to travel in a motorcar and even took a ride in a submarine — his home was without electricity for many years. Wood-fed fireplaces provided most of the heating throughout the home's history. And a telephone was only temporarily installed while Roosevelt served as president — from 1902 to 1908 — and the home was known as the



*Teddy Roosevelt decided to build his family's home on Long Island because of his fond childhood memories there.*

tips for swimming and camping at Cold Spring Harbor. It is an easy walk through an oak and tulip-tree forest and over the Eel Creek boardwalk to the beachfront where waterfowl spend their days swimming and searching for food.

However, visitors are advised to get tickets as soon as possible upon arrival, since

"Summer White House." Whatever it may have lacked in creature comforts, the home hosted an endless parade of dignitaries and celebrities — ranging from cartoonist Thomas Nast to writer Rudyard Kipling to the King of Belgium.

Be sure to catch the "splash room" where Roosevelt's overly enthusiastic showering produced overflows that have permanently warped the floors — or the remonstrance painted on a door shared by two of the Roosevelt children. All these details, along with the fantastic array of books, souvenirs and hunting trophies leave one feeling that Teddy himself might come busting around the corner at any moment.

Indeed, the guides are fond of passing along stories of the occasional mysterious goings on in the house, attributed by some to the ghostly but benign presence of the boisterous Roosevelt children. But despite that otherworldly reputation and the predominance of dark wood paneling, the home is always more enchanting than haunting, communicating the energy of its former owner through myriad

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