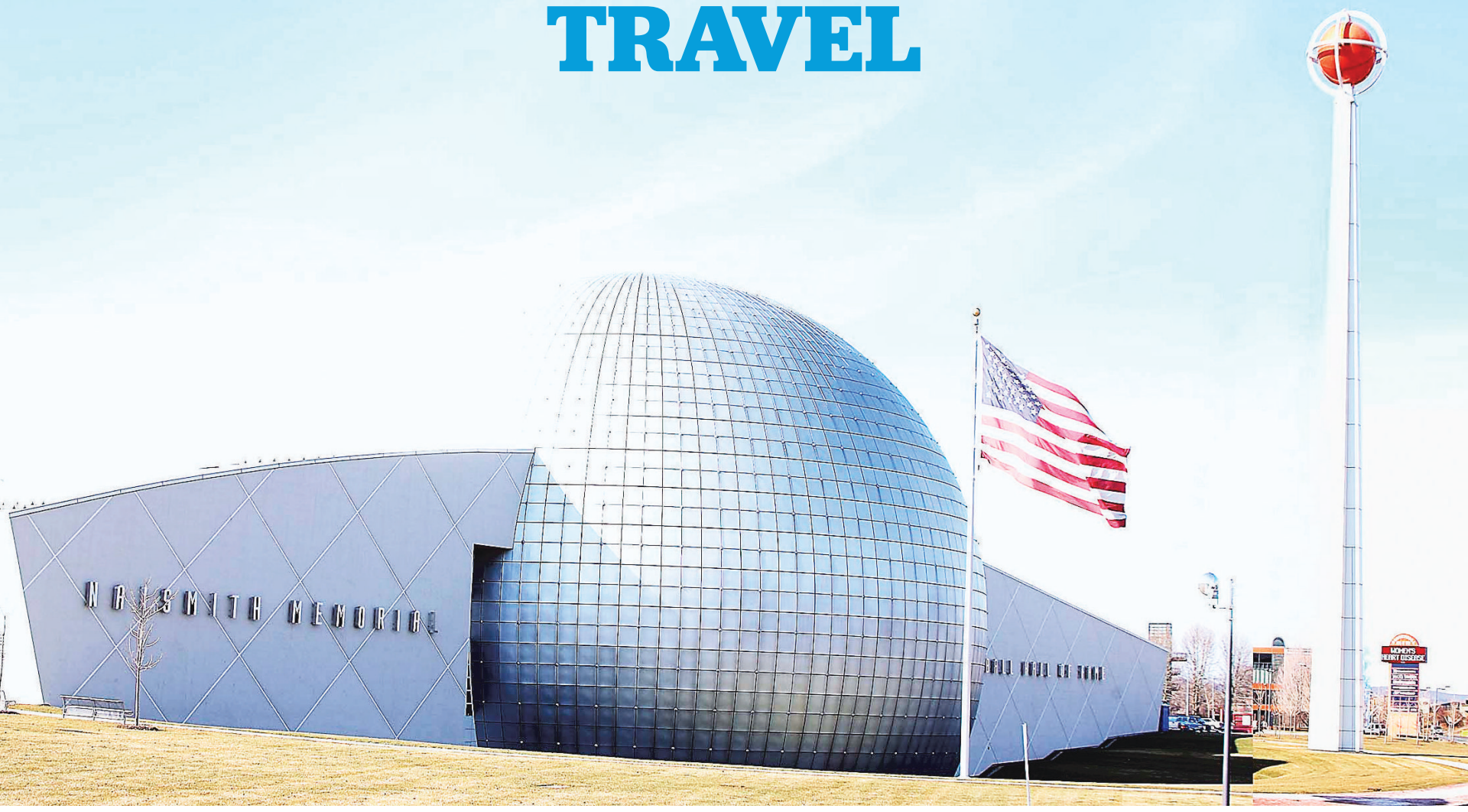
TRAVEL



The Basketball Hall of Fame, founded in 1959, opened its current building in Springfield, Mass., in June 1985. Its first inductee was James Naismith, below, inventor of the game.



ALL HAIL hoops

History, tributes, artifacts, and participation at the Mass. museum celebrating basketball.



The Honors Court, on the third floor, pays tribute to more than 300 individuals and teams that have been inducted into the Hall of Fame. Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame

By Peter Smolens
FOR THE INQUIRER

Just as Cooperstown, N.Y., is the home of baseball, Springfield, Mass., is the home of basketball. So it is only fitting that the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame be in the town where "America's Game," seen and played worldwide, began more than a hundred years ago.

The museum, on the Connecticut River next to Interstate 91, is in the shape of a large basketball and is crammed with more than a hundred years of basketball history. Using the latest audiovisual techniques to please basketball fans young and old, the new museum features a number of audience-participation activities. There are three full floors where fans can see "Where Basketball History Comes Alive — Again!"

The Honors Court

One of the most recognizable voices in college basketball today, Dick Vitale, greets you as you take the elevator to the third floor. He provides a quick introduction that puts you in the right frame of mind for the Honors Court. Here are tributes to the many people who have made basketball the game it is today.

To become eligible, a player, coach, or referee must — in addi-

See **BASKETBALL** on N5

TRAVEL INSIDER | **N6**



Belgium museum charts European exodus

CHECK IN | **N2**



La Scala leads list of top ten opera houses



PERSONAL JOURNEY | **N5**

Floating on currents of European history



Holland America's Maasdam docks in Quebec City, among other ports of call along the St. Lawrence River, giving passengers ample opportunity to explore Canadian points of interest. ANDREA SACHS / Washington Post

CRUISE | **2013**

Cruising Canada's eastern waters

A shipboard tour through the St. Lawrence and the Maritimes affords views of quaint villages, Quebec City.

By Andrea Sachs
WASHINGTON POST

"Well, now I can cross that off my list."

Our ship, the Maasdam, was barely 10 minutes out of the gate — the cruise terminal in Montreal — when passenger Leo Croteau shortened his bucket list by one: the St. Lawrence River.

No two travelers share the same wanderlust list. For example, none of the six ports of call or two bodies of water on Holland America's Canada and New England Discovery itinerary originally appeared on my fantasy-trip card. But on a seven-day cruise last month, I considered a revision.

From May through October, the Maasdam hopscotches around the lobster claw of northeastern North America. Starting in Montreal, the ship sails along the St. Lawrence River, glides into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, then drops into the Atlantic. In Boston, the final destination, it reverses course.

En route, the vessel weaves together a macrame of stops: Quebec City; Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; Sydney and Halifax, Nova Scotia; and Bar Harbor, Maine. The schedule also incorporates a full day on the St. Lawrence,

See **CANADA** on N4



The Basketball Hall of Fame's display on the Boston Celtics features Arnold "Red" Auerbach, who coached the team to nine NBA titles from 1950 to 1966. Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame

Basketball shrine brings hardwood history to life

BASKETBALL from N1

tion to being outstanding in his or her profession — be retired for at least five years and nominated by the selection committee. A coach can also become eligible if he or she has been active for more than 25 years, as can someone who has made a significant contribution to the game of basketball. To be selected to the Honors Court is a perfect ending to a great career.

The first person to ever be inducted into the Hall of Fame was, of course, James Naismith, the founder of the game of basketball. On the second floor, a statue honoring Naismith welcomes visitors to a multimedia presentation that covers the introduction of the game.

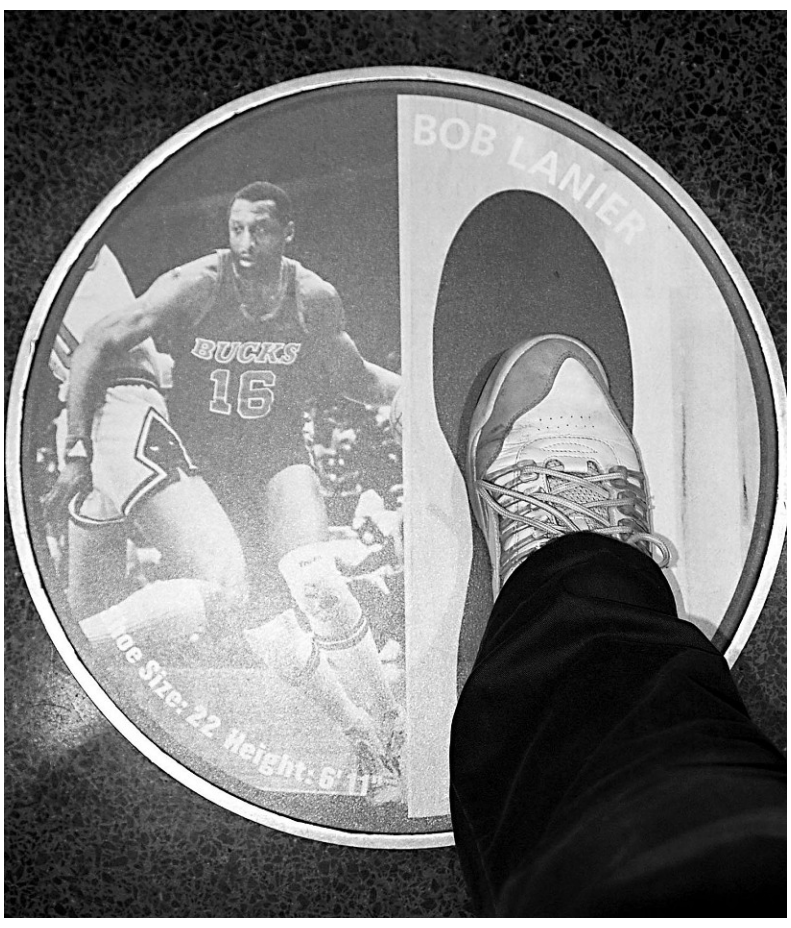
Naismith, a medical doctor, teacher, minister, and leader of men, was asked to come up with a healthy "distraction" that anyone could play at the local YMCA during the cold winter months in New England. He devised a team game in which the players would work together to put a round ball into a box mounted on the wall. It would be a noncontact game, requiring physical skill instead of size, as football demanded. With a leather ball and a couple of peach baskets, the first game of basketball was played Dec. 21, 1891. The peach baskets led to the naming of the game — "basket ball." The game spread naturally, as early as January 1892, as many of the students went their separate ways and introduced basketball to their hometowns.

Game changes

Since that first game, many changes have been made to all areas of basketball, faithfully detailed throughout the museum's second floor. Sneakers are a good example. The museum shows the development of the sneaker from old-fashioned black Keds high-tops worn by many basketball players of the past to the different styles of sneakers available today.

Visitors can also see the evolution in uniforms the players wore. In the beginning, they were made of wool. Now, they're made of nylon. Many popular pro basketball players have donated their high school, college, or pro jerseys to the Hall of Fame.

Throughout the second floor, visitors are encouraged to test their skills. At the "How High Is Up!" exhibit, you can find out exactly how high some of the pros jump. Against the latest basketball video games, you can also test your reflexes and rebounding skills. The newest attraction is virtual basketball. Using the latest movie technology, you stand in front of a blue background, and a camera puts you on the basketball court playing against such stars as Jason Kidd and Dawn Staley.



Visitors can try to fill the sneakers — size 22 — of Hall of Famer Bob Lanier. A bronzed pair of Lanier's shoes made it into the Hall before the Detroit Pistons and Milwaukee Bucks star did.

An expanded section is devoted to people who report on the game of basketball. Learn what it takes to bring a basketball game into your living room. Find out if you have a voice for radio or TV. Ever thought you could be an ESPN *SportsCenter* reporter? The Basketball Hall of Fame offers the chance to read from a teleprompter and to see how you look on camera. Afterward, you can review how you performed as a reporter doing a quick basketball segment.

The most popular attraction at the new Hall of Fame is, without question, the full-size basketball court on the ground floor. Visitors can try their skill at the game by shooting baskets at different heights, from the original peach basket to the latest NBA glass backboard.

On your way out is a fully stocked museum store with an array of gifts that will satisfy any basketball fan's desire for a lasting memory of a visit to the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame

1000 Hall of Fame Ave.
Springfield, Mass. 01105
1-877-446-6752
www.hoophall.com

Tickets

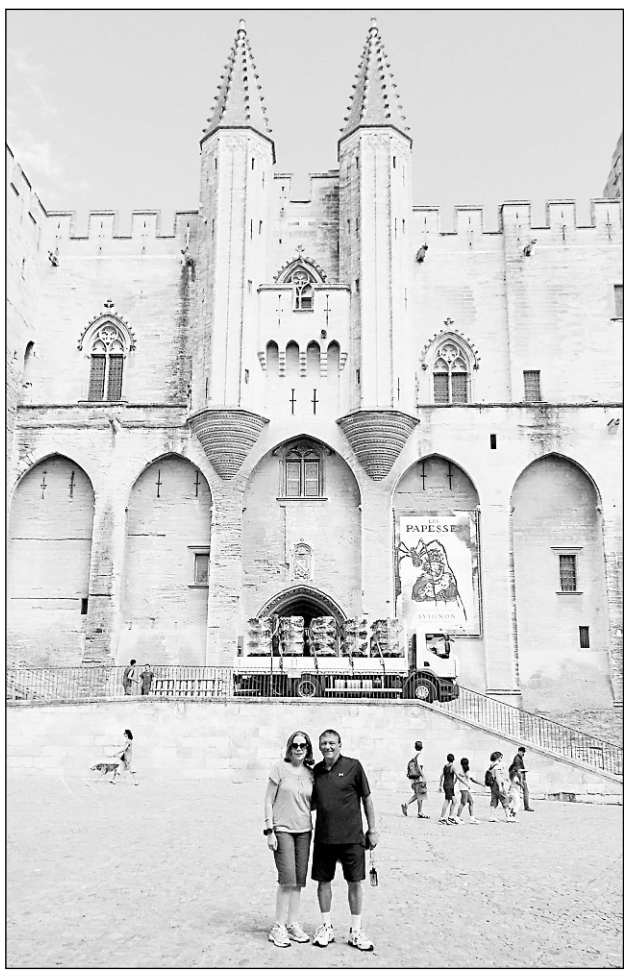
Adults, $19; seniors (ages 65 & older), $15; youth (ages 5-15), $12; children (4 & under), free

Lodging

Hilton Garden Inn Springfield
800 Hall of Fame Ave.
Springfield, Mass. 01105
1-413-886-8000

Springfield Marriott
2 Boland Way
Springfield, Mass. 01115
1-413-781-7111

Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel
One Monarch Place
Springfield, Mass. 01144
1-800-325-3535



The author and his wife, Ellen, in front of the Papal Palace in Avignon, France, home to frescoes, cloisters, chapels, and the private apartments of seven popes.

PERSONAL JOURNEY

A leisurely tour of French sites from riverside

By Barry Sussman
FOR THE INQUIRER

Global travel has been my forte since the old Soviet Union and India initiated me to the wider world. What I was saving for the golden years, Paris and a French river cruise, now was our adventure. Could it live up to my expectations?

To celebrate our 30th anniversary, my wife, Ellen, and I booked the Amadeus Symphony through Gate1 Travel, sailing north then south on the Saone and Rhone Rivers. We embarked from Lyon, France's second-largest city, and finished there Aug. 1.

The Amadeus carries 128 passengers, so crowding was not on this ship's radar. It belongs to an Austrian line, and we shared the trip with Italian, Spanish, and German guests. Docking parallel to other luxury cruise ships, we observed similar amenities and identical cabins. River cruises share comparable itineraries.

Staying unpacked for a week and visiting medieval cities in each port was a pleasure. Four hundred fifty-one miles on two rivers was relaxing, romantic, and remarkable for exploring new sights. The Rhone and Saone are calm, but we entered 15 locks built into dams on our voyage. These were constructed a half-century ago to control disastrous flooding on both rivers. The engineering involved and the crew's piloting, with just millimeters to spare in each lock, are marvels to witness.

Gourmet dishes were elegantly served, and the cuisine varied depending upon the regions we passed.

In the Beaujolais region, we walked through vineyards, learned about grape varieties, and sampled wines. The Ardeche was "lavender fields forever," with Ellen joyously walking among the fragrant purple blooms.

Avant-garde artists, crazy outfits, weird vehicles, and street performers amused us in Chalon-sur-Saone. Photography, we learned, was invented there at the Nicephore Niepce Museum we happened upon. Almost every city had open-air markets, a merry-go-round, and quaint houses, with narrow alleys to explore.

On river cruises, it's possible to see more of a country without the hassle of road trips and changing hotels every other day. Supersized ships dock far from city centers but are within walking distance of town.

At the Pont du Gard Aqueduct, 2,000-year-old Roman engineering lives on. I climbed its 165 feet to see how water flowed 30 miles to the city of Nimes.

Avignon, the "City of Popes," with its fortress walls and 600-year history, was another favorite. Its palaces contain frescoes, cloisters, chapels, and the private apartments of seven popes. With foreign travel, expect the unexpected. A horse torso hanging from a ceremonial hall ceiling grabbed our attention. It was part of an exposition with giant spiders and contemporary art by five women called Les Papesses.

Farther south was Arles, with its Roman amphitheater that once hosted gladiators and that today presents bullfights. It was also where Van Gogh spent a year, and we were able to identify places he painted.

With minimal effort, river cruising was great traveling. Touring a major section of France satisfied my international appetite.

Barry Sussmann writes from Maple Glen.

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