



March 5, 1997, Wednesday, Final EDITION

Armchair Traveller

Cozy Places For Love

By Linda A. Fox

Wanna snuggle with your sweetie? Maybe that same old bedroom decor isn't quite enough to get you in the mood anymore.

Bradley S. O'Leary's new book, *Bed & Champagne: Top Romantic Hideaways* (Boru Books, \$ 13.95), might just be the read you need to get your engine overheated. So hop in the car and start driving - 'cause these dreamy dens are all south of the border.

O'Leary takes you on a journey to casitas overlooking the sandy beach all the way to rustic hideaways nestled in the California redwood forests.

But for something a little closer to home, he does offer suggestions in New York, Michigan, Vermont and Illinois. Not all the locales are small; O'Leary also recommends large hotels such as the Ritz-Carlton in Chicago. It all depends on the size of your wallet and your passion, I guess.

If money's no object and we mean NO object, he suggests a private villa in East Hampton, N.Y. It's called Rounick House and it's a Tudor mansion with 295 feet of ocean frontage. It also has a billiard room, library, indoor and outdoor pools, and seven bedrooms. (Gee, one for every night of the week!) Yours for \$ 200,000 for the entire

summer.

If the budget doesn't stretch quite that far, you can still visit East Hampton and stay at The Maidstone Arms for about \$ 180 to \$ 295 US a night.

The author says this recently renovated inn has 16 guest rooms and two cottages (which run a little higher in price). Fresh seafood is the Maidstone's culinary speciality. Cocktails and afternoon tea are all part of the ambience.

In Vermont, you can snuggle up at Twin Farms in Barnard. It was once the honeymoon home of novelist Sinclair Lewis and journalist Dorothy Thompson.

Twin Farms is located in 255 acres of rolling hills, meadows, gardens and ponds in central Vermont. Built in 1795, the house has 14 guest quarters ranging from \$ 700 to \$ 1,000 US.

Now for the ultimate! The Sierra Hotel Railway in Chicago where you can rent a rail car for the night for \$ 3,000 to \$ 5,000. You can take a scenic ride through the countryside, with meals prepared on board.

No one ever said romance came cheap - and this book proves it. It's nice to dream, but I guess I'll just have to roll over and get romantic staring at the same old striped wallpaper again.