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New things available for state's travelers

North Carolina travellers will find a lot of new things awaiting their enjoyment this year,

The novelties range from beginning of the 400th anniversary to

new facilities at several locations.

This year marks the beginning of the 400th anniversary celebration of English America's Birthplace, which had its meager beginnings on North Carolina's Outer Banks. This three-year celebration, however, will be observed all over

In conjunction with the 400th anniversary, a new state historic site will be opened July 13 with the commissioning of the Elizabeth II, a 16th century styled ship berthed at Manteo where it was built.

Among celebrations will be the

British-American Festival in Durham, June 2-16, a Moore County historical drama to be presented during the summer in Southern Pines, and a week-long festival in Orange County centered around University Day in October.

The Highland Games and Gathering of Scottish Clans at Grandfather Mountain July 14-15 will be dedicated to the 400th Anniversary, as will many other annual events across the state.

Another major celebration is the

50th anniversary of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the most popular national park, with almost nine million visitors in

The celebration involves some 18 counties which will com-memorate the park's golden anniversary with events throughout the year. Each month's schedule of events will be keyed to various themes, including heritage month, mountain music and dance, photography and the arts, mountain harvest, crafts and colors.

Charlotte Motor Speedway celebrates its 25th anniversary in 1984. Its celebration is being marked with the World 600 Festival and 12,000 new seats, 17 new VIP suites and 40 condominiums. The condos are believed to be the only

full-time living quarters at any sports facility in the country. Tryon Palace in New Bern celebrates the 25th anniversary of its "second opening." It first opened in 1770 but burned in 1798. The Tryon Palace restoration

opened to the public in 1959. In the Charlotte area, 1,500 new hotel rooms will be opening in 1984, the Tryon Street Mall is to be completed by November, and Mint Museum is being expanded and will be closed until early 1985.

The historic and picturesque Grove Park Inn in Asheville opens 202 new rooms and a new con-ference center in April and becomes a year-round facility.

At the North Carolina Zoological Park near Asheboro a new African Pavilion with indoor and outdoor habitats and 40-acre African Plains are scheduled to open this summer

Chimney Rock Park has replaced the bridge over the Rocky Broad River at the park's entrance with a modern structure.

Carowinds theme park near Charlotte has created a Smurf Island, a 1.3-acre children's

1984 is the "Year of the Ocean" with a special "Ocean Week" celebration planned for October calling attention to the state's many marine resources.

There are new exhibits at Discovery Place in Charlotte, and the Muppets will make an appearance this year at this "handsexhibition of science and technology.

A host of new hotels are opening across the state, including the Winston Plaza in Winston-Salem, a Radisson in High Point, Marriotts in Greensboro and Charlotte, and Sheraton Center in Charlotte.

Frontier Land in Cherokee will reopen in May as Magic Waters, with water slides, water skiing shows, high diving acts and other water-related amusements.

The new Elk River Country Club in Banner Elk opens featuring the first Jack Nicklaus designed golf course in North Carolina.

new welcome center is scheduled to open this year along Interstate 77 near Charlotte.

Ghost Town In The Sky at Magie Valley has a new ride, the Silver Bullet, an exhilarating roller coaster that barrels 900 feet down the face of Ghost Mountain through a pond, under the chairlift and between trees.

Carteret County has a new convention center and at nearby New Bern an addition has opened at the Fireman's Museum.