

TRAVEL LOG of Iris Jones



This hall will celebrate those famous space cadets

Christopher Columbus, who sailed the oceans in search of new worlds, was considered a madman by most of his contemporaries in Europe. Every sane person knew the earth was flat and that he would eventually sail off its edge.

People who are labeled crazy in their lifetime are often called heroes after their death, because they chased a vision hidden from most of us.

These thoughts are prompted by the announcement that the Astronaut Hall of Fame was opened at the Meteor Crater near Flagstaff, Ariz., on Oct. 12. The Hall of Fame commemorates the 10th anniversary of man's first landing on the moon, by Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin on July 20, 1969.

I will never forget the event. After watching it on television for hours at a time, I would walk outside and look up at the moon to remind myself that this was not another piece of television fiction.

The madman-cum-hero story goes back more than 10 years at Meteor Crater. The hole in the ground, which is 4,150 feet wide, 570 feet deep and three miles in circumference, was thought to have been formed by steam or gaseous blowouts until a "madman" called Daniel Barringer decided in 1905 that it was a meteor crater.

Of course the world said he was crazy.

BARRINGER SPENT 30 years at the crater proving his theory, which is now accepted as scientific fact. This hole was created by a large meteorite that hit the earth at a speed of more than 30,000 mph.

More than 200,000 people a year now visit the Museum of Astrogeology in Meteor Crater. You can view it from platforms inside the crater itself, or look at graphic displays and meteorite samples inside the museum.

The meteor itself probably disintegrated on impact, but the hole it left behind was so similar to the landscape of the moon that it was used as a training site for all of the astronauts who journeyed to the moon.

Here they learned how to navigate moon-like terrain in a moon rover, and pick up displaced rocks for further study. Here they could once have been seen walking in their clumsy space suits, preparing for that "one giant step for mankind."

THE ASTRONAUT HALL OF FAME is still a fairly modest exhibit center. It features memorabilia, photographs, personal mementoes and plaques detailing the specific moon flights as well as their crews and space records. A five-minute film shows Apollo II's historic moon mission.

You can see a worn space suit and a replica of the Apollo craft. The displays will be regularly expanded in the future to include more films and more replicas of actual space flight memorabilia.

I think I'll put their brochure on my wall to remind me that crazy people in our world are often saner than I. The thought holds not only for the physical world of travel but also for the inner world of the artist, who often sees visions I don't understand until later. Dreams are only crazy until they come true.



All of America's moon-walking astronauts trained at the Meteor Crater, learning how to identify various rock stratifications and how to negotiate the moon's surface.

Exhibits in other states to lure you out of town

An exhibition of 95 oils by American painters of the impressionism school will continue at the Midland Art Council galleries at the Midland Center for the Arts through Nov. 4.

The galleries are open from 1-5 p.m. Mondays-Sundays and from 7-9 p.m. Thursdays.

"American Painters of the Impressionist Period Rediscovered" brings together a group of painters whose artistic training was in the French impressionism style. Bright colors with an emphasis on air, atmosphere, and a suppression of details to the overall effect of the composition are the characteristics which are part of these artists' canvases.

Works by 76 painters demonstrate the varied results derived from this artistic technique.

Midland Art Council documents will take groups and clubs on a guided tour of the exhibition weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tours must be arranged one week in advance with the art council office at 517-631-3250.

"THE AMERICAN FARM: A Photographic History" depicting the relationship between man and the land, remains at the Indianapolis Museum of Art through Nov. 25.

The exhibition is a pictorial history of farming in the United States, using a series of 174 photographs which range from the 1860s to the present. The exhibition marks the evolution of the farm in America from the yeoman sowing his fields by hand to the giant agricultural industry.

A social comment, the exhibition is thought-provoking and a powerful display of work by some of the most outstanding photographers to document

American life. Early pioneer photographer Emma Coleman from Massachusetts recorded a way of life she knew was quickly dying. Solomon Burke, whose work is relatively unknown, captured pioneer hardships in Nebraska. Prominent photographers such as Lewis Hine, Dorothea Lange, Ben Shahn and Russell Lee have portrayed the faces and the fields as works of art. The work of more than 80 different photographers is included in the exhibition.

The Indianapolis Museum of Art is at 1200 W. 38th Street, Indianapolis, and is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays-Sundays and closed Mondays. Admission is free to all exhibits.

"FIBERWORKS 1979/Cranbrook," an exhibition of works by members of Cranbrook Academy of Art's fiber department, continues at the Midland Center for the Arts through Nov. 4.

The 16 members of Cranbrook's fiber department participating in the exhibition are working on graduate-level degrees or have just completed their graduate studies. Each of the artists gives life to fiber in their own creative way, using dyes, paint and hand-made fabrics.

The exhibit, in the upper level perimeter area at the Midland Center for the Arts. Admission is free.

TOULOUSE-LAUTREC Retrospective will be held at the Chicago Institute of Arts through Dec. 2. The first major exhibition of the artist's work in 35 years will contain more than 100 paintings and gouaches by the 19th century French artist. Highlighting the exhibit will be 25 pictures from the famous collection of the Toulouse-Lautrec Museum in Albi, France, the artist's birthplace.

Duluth, Minn.

Out of the way, but worth a visit

Story and photo: Iris Sanderson Jones

DULUTH, Minn. — The story of Duluth unfolds before you when looking down from any of the streets that climb this hillside city above Lake Superior.

In the foreground, new hotels and office buildings mark the downtown skyline. Beyond, oreboats ride light and high at the end of the lake waiting their turn at the ore docks, while low, heavily laden ships set out across the largest lake in the world for distant, unseen shores.

Duluth celebrates its 300th birthday this year, despite the fact it is relatively unknown to most Americans. Isolation makes it a less-than-mainstream tourist destination. Yet it supplies an unusual travel experience.

THREE HUNDRED years ago, the French explorer Daniel Greysolon Sieur du Lout landed on the treed sandbar that separates the lake from St. Louis Bay. There, a fur trading post once stood at the mouth of the St. Louis River, which now divides the city of Duluth from the city of Superior, Wis.

Northward up the rocky coastline of the lake is the Iron Range, a mining bonanza that fed billions of tons of ore into industrial America before it began to peter out.

Why would anybody go to Duluth and what does one do once there? Duluth is the biggest habitation on the circle drive around Lake Superior. It is a winter destination for lovers of curling, hockey and skiing. And it is beginning to fill its new convention hall with conventions.

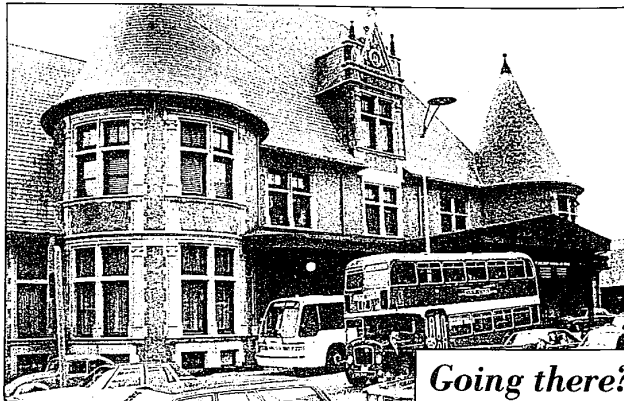
You probably wouldn't drive the 750 miles from Detroit or pay the air fare for a one-stop visit to the twin cities of Duluth and Superior but it would be worth adding to a trip through the Upper Peninsula or around the lake.

There are 103,000 people in this cigar-shaped city. It has been called a ribbon city because a few long horizontal streets climb the 600-foot-high ridge above the lake.

Enchanted skywalks already lead you from one building to another downtown, and more are planned; good thinking for a city that hits 35 and 40 degrees below zero in the winter.

AN OLD RAILROAD station in the heart of the city has been converted to a community center called the Depot, where various museum and performing groups share space in one of the finest restorations of its kind that I have seen.

Out of town in one direction is Spirit Mountain, where a lodge and a few rentable condominiums overlook the



A restored railroad depot, appropriately dubbed the Depot, was converted into a museum and performing art space in Duluth.

ski lift. In the other direction, up the north shore, you can tour the Gleneshen Mansion, which opened for tours in July after following two years of public scandal.

The house was built by a turn-of-the-century mining baron. His last living daughter was murdered in her bed there, and her nurse was bludgeoned to death on the stairs nearby, two years ago.

Her son-in-law has been convicted of the murders, and her adopted daughter acquitted of a conspiracy charge in a trial that shocked the city.

TWO MARINE MUSEUMS are worth visiting: the Marine Museum, which is in the shadow of an unique lift bridge in Duluth and the Whaleback Museum on the shoreline in Superior.

A two-hour cruise will give you a good look at the grain silos and ore docks as well as the few still-preserved natural areas along the river and the harbor shoreline. For real natural beauty, take North Shore Drive along the edge of the lake.

A one-hour bus trip out of Duluth will take you to a very unusual federal museum on the Iron Range, called the Iron Range Interpretive Center. The U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame is on the way.

This whole area does an exceptional job of recognizing and memorializing

its first immigrant settlers, and this interpretive center does it best of all. Although Duluth is celebrating its tricentennial, most of the early settlers came to the iron mines at the turn-of-the-century, so the Boston designers of the center were able to gather oral histories from still-living pioneers and their children.

One of the favorite anecdotes around the center concerns the history of an old immigrant from Italy who was in fact the father of then-governor Rudy Perpich. The oral history room has old timer tales heard through earphones while you gaze through window walls to the remains of the old mines.

Downstairs, authentic old log cabins and cut-away pioneer rooms re-create the life on which this entire area is based. Here, again, isolation is the grimmest and the beauty of the story. It's a story that is an important cultural aspect of American history. It is a story seldom told.

The same ships that make a busy harbor here, filling their holds with taconite from the Iron Range, are later seen sailing low and heavy down the Detroit River towards the industrial plants of the Great Lakes and on towards the sea.

Going there?

HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS — The old Hotel Duluth was the main accommodation in town until the Duluth Radisson was built 10 years ago. The Normandy has since been added to the skyline two blocks away and the Edgewater Motel has been added to the beach a few blocks north.

Some of the best eating places are in the hotels, including the revolving Top of the Harbor at the Radisson, the Village Restaurant at the Normandy, and the Bellows next door to the Edgewater.

We asked somebody who lives here and got these food recommendations. For your spouse's dress-up birthday: the three hotel-related restaurants above as well as the Pickwick and the Jolly Fisher. For entertainment, the Normandy and Radisson bars, as well as Mr. Pete's Corral and the Brass Phoenix. The Sawmill for country western. Williams Pub for live entertainment upstairs and a peanut pub downstairs.

The Chinese Lantern was on everybody's list.

Wherever you go, try the fish, the wild duck and the wild rice that is common to this area.

What do you do across the river in Superior? "The sailors love to go the bars there," and "The college kids love it because you can get drunk for 25 cents a beer."

For information on Duluth and nearby attractions, contact the Duluth Convention and Tourist Bureau at 325 Harbor Dr. Duluth, Minn. 55802.

'Holiday on Ice' slides to Lansing

The 24th edition of "Holiday on Ice" will be at the Lansing Civic Center for performances from Tuesday, Nov. 13, through Sunday, Nov. 18.

Headliners on the roster of skating talent include Little Lito, a pantomime comedian in the tradition of Charlie Chaplin; Patrice Leary, a second generation ice performer who made her professional debut at the age of 5; Patrick McKilligan, a champion skater from British Columbia; Carol and Clive Phipson, a 12-year ice show veteran; Bob Rubens, a daredevil spinner; and comedian Devin Bubb, who does a wild and irreverent parody of Carmen Miranda.

This edition features six glittering production numbers with lavish costumes and special effects which showcase the talents of the ice skating stars. Tickets are available at the Lansing Civic Center box office, and Knapp's Department Store.

Mysticism awaits Ghana visitors

Tourists in Ghana may visit a traditional shrine in Larteh, 30 miles from that country's capital city of Accra, where herbalism is practiced and mystic healing rites are performed.

The Akonodi Shrine offers insights into the uses of herbs and plants. Nana Okomfohene Oparebea, chief priestess of the shrine, is said to be endowed with power to heal many diseases. Some visit her because it is believed she can predict the future. Nana Oparebea also offers training in traditional rites and herbalism.

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