

TRAVEL LOG of Iris Jones



To be or not to be, the weather decides

Bob Helwig and his staff at the Upper Peninsula Travel and Recreation Association hoped to be able to tell you that the ski runs would be open for Thanksgiving, but old man winter didn't cooperate.

Some parts of the Upper Peninsula had collected 10 inches of snow in early November, but most of it was not concentrated in the ski resort areas. What there was has been melted and was lost by mild weather.

Mount Ripley in Houghton and Pine Mountain in Iron Mountain have announced that they expect to open Dec. 1. Ski Ruble in Iron River has had the most snow-luck, and is most likely to be the first slope in use.

There had not as yet been any word from Indianhead in Wakefield when we called. Hang on to your skis. Winter is coming, but you may not be able to slide on snow just yet.

A COMPANY ONCE known as Europe on Skis has changed its name to Steve Lohr's Skiworld, and is reorganized to offer custom ski vacations to travelers.

Lohr offers a Ski Holiday Kit containing dozens of suggestions for every major ski area in the world. The traveler will be invited to write or call Lohr and talk about the kind of ski trip desired. Lohr's Skiworld will then recommend a specific trip.

If anybody has tried this service, let me know. Skiworld's address is 3 East 54th St., New York, New York, 10022.

FROM THE MAILBAG — Day tours from Macau into the People's Republic of China are now available to travelers.

According to officials of China Travel Service in Macau, the number of visitors will be limited initially to 200 per day with bookings made through licensed Macau agents only, or through the China Travel Service in Hong Kong.

Cost of the day trip is 125 patacas, or \$25, including entry, transportation, a guided tour and lunch. Tours start early morning and return at 5 p.m. Air conditioned coaches are used.

Two tours are offered. The Chung Shan circuit includes a visit to Choi Hang, the birthplace of Sun Yat-sen; lunch at Shek Ki, the county capital; and a visit to a local commune or nursery.

The Chu Hoi tour includes a visit to Choi Hang; lunch at the Incense Burner Bay beach resort; and a visit to the fishing village of Heong Tsau.

No special visas are needed for groups of 10 or more. Individuals may apply to the China Travel Service for a visa 36 hours in advance.

For information, write Macau Tourist Information Board, 3133 Lake Hollywood Dr., Los Angeles, Calif. 90068.

THE H.S. TUT and the H.S. ATON, floating hotel ships, are now cruising the Nile River between Luxor and Aswan in Egypt. The two, 83-cabin ships will be joined in January by two identical sister ships, the H.S. An and the H.S. Htop. All four are run by Sheraton hotels.

They offer four- and seven-night cruises and include a travel guide to help visit the ancient monuments along the way.



Skiers, snowmobilers can take the snowtrain

Gov. William G. Milliken announced that the state of Michigan will assist in testing a snow train for skiers and snowmobilers between Cadillac and southeast Michigan in January.

Milliken said that state agencies will help organize an Owosso-Cadillac round-trip passenger excursion train on the weekend of Jan. 4-5, to test the feasibility of reviving this once-popular rail service for northbound tourists.

The January rail excursion to Cadillac will be promoted as the Michigan Snow Train and will feature a weekend of entertainment, including a band.

Cadillac Winter Promotions, Inc., a non-profit organization formed by Cadillac area business leaders, will be the official sponsors of the event, with assistance from the Michigan Travel Bureau, the Michigan Office of the Upper Great Lakes Regional Commission, the Michigan Bureau of Urban and Public Transportation, the Cadillac Chamber of Commerce and others.

FIVE PASSENGER coaches, a club car and a flat car to carry snowmobilers have been secured by Michigan Interstate Railway Co., the former Ann Arbor Railroad, which will operate the train.

Ridership will be limited to the first 340 persons who buy round-trip tickets.

A package plan includes the round-trip train ride, all ski lift and snowmobile trail fees for the weekend, a Friday night fish fry, lodging for two nights, a Saturday morning lumberjack breakfast and lunch and other special events. The price is \$119 a person.

Transportation to Custer Lake ski area also will be included. A number of snowmobile trail rides and a 50-mile Snowfari have been planned for the weekend. Additional information and reservations can be obtained by contacting Robert Jones at the Cadillac Chamber of Commerce, 200 Lake St., Cadillac 49601; 1-616-775-9776 or William VanderMolen, president of Cadillac Winter Promotions, 200 Lake St., Cadillac 49601; 1-616-775-9776.

Milliken said that if this trip is successful, especially revenue-wise, other similar ventures will be organized in other parts of the state aimed at both train buffs and recreation enthusiasts.

The train is scheduled to depart Owosso at 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4, and return by 9:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6. Owosso is northeast of Lansing and just southwest of Flint.

Two ancient Egyptian monuments go public in 1980

By IRIS SANDERSON JONES

During a recent trip to Egypt, I visited the restoration sites of two ancient Egyptian monuments that will be open to the public in 1980.

The temples at Philae, which have been under water since the first Aswan Dam was built in 1902, have been moved to higher ground near the city of Aswan.

The 5,000-year-old Cheops Funeral Barge, unearthed during an archaeological dig in 1954, has been painstakingly rebuilt and will be shown in a museum setting next to the Great Pyramid of Giza.

Philae is an islet at the end of the Nile cataracts, 600 miles south of Cairo in Upper Egypt. It has been the site of holy temples since the 26th dynasty, in the sixth century B.C., including the Temple of Isis, Hathor Temple, Hadrian's Pylon, Horndotes Temple, the Temple of Augustus and the Kiosk of Trajan.

THE ISLAND, once fringed with palm trees, was a popular religious resort for Egyptians, Ethiopians and others who traveled to Aswan, the crossroads and ancient marketplace of Egypt. The sands of centuries eventually buried many of the monuments, which were unearthed during archaeological digs in the late 19th century.

The famous walls were flooded when the first Aswan Dam, now known as the British Dam, was built in 1902. For decades, the top of the Temple of Isis has been visible only from July to October.

The raising of the temples began after the successful raising of the gigantic temple figures at Abu Simbel, which would have been similarly lost under the waters of Lake Nasser after the new Aswan Dam was built.

All of that is historical information, but the real experience of visiting a monument of this kind is in the people who surround it.

As we went down the stone steps to the boat which waited on the Nile beside the old British Dam, a frieze of Egyptians showed the stone steps with color. A black

man from Nubia, to the south, leaned his foot on an oil barrel at the top of the stone slope. Nubia was so completely flooded by the new dam that most of its residents have been moved to Aswan.

A tiny child in a striped robe and a multicolored cap marked the first landing. An old man, black face between a stark white galabia robe and an equally white sunhat, did a cheerful jig at the bottom of the slope.

A young man and a small child, both in cotton robes and cap, sailed us across the narrow strip of water towards Philae. From a distance, the ancient pillars made dark shapes against the brilliant desert sky. Close up, they were a feast of hieroglyphics on stone.

The construction crews were still working with scaffolds and ladders when we were there. A man rested in a patch of shade. Two men posed for the camera. A young student explained that he was learning Egyptology at a school and on the job.

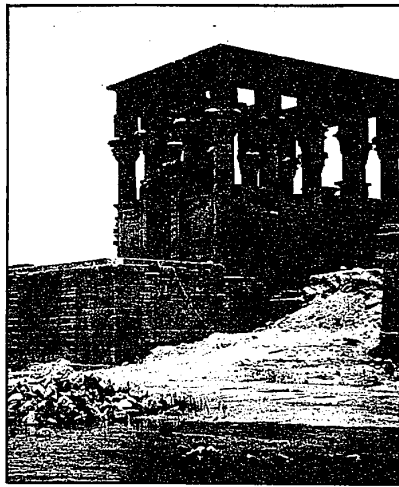
Many experts believe that the Rosetta Stone, which allowed the western world to decipher the hieroglyphics of ancient Egypt, would never have been deciphered without a relic from Philae, now resident in the Louvre in Paris.

SIX HUNDRED miles downriver, where the narrow stem of the Upper Nile meets the delta at Cairo, these same waters once carried Cheops funeral barge to the new-land city of Giza. A canal once joined Giza with the Nile.

The Great Pyramid, the largest of the pyramids at Giza, was built by the Egyptian king Cheops 5,000 years ago. Although little is really known about how it was built, more than 100,000 workers are believed to have labored for 20 years building it.

The original limestone covering of the pyramid has long since been removed, leaving only the rough-cut stones open to the air.

Cheops was buried here 50 centuries ago. His body was carried in procession down the canal from the Nile to Giza, and up the slope



The temple at Philae is set on the banks of an islet at the end of the Nile cataracts, awaiting what the 1980s and the more distant future may bring. (Photo by Iris Sanderson Jones)

to the pyramid on a wooden barge 45 meters, or 49.2 yards, long.

THE REMAINS OF the barge, in remarkably good condition after 5,000 years, was found during a dig near the pyramids in 1954. It was buried in seven layers. Five thousand meters, or 5,468 yards, of rope tied the pieces of the barge together in ancient times.

The museum was still under construction when I visited it in the building where the barge will be displayed, adjacent to Cheops' pyramid. A small model of the barge, and the great stones which buried it, are on display on the ground floor.

Nassef Mohammed Hassan, the manager of antiquities for Giza, led us to the high space where the

renovated barge is now suspended under a glass roof.

"The father of Cheops is known to have sent 40 boatloads of goods to Lebanon, and to have brought back cedars from Lebanon," Hassan said. "Some of these cedars may have been used to build this barge."

Hassan and his crew have spent five years carefully restoring this priceless antique. The wood was treated, the parts registered and photographed. What we saw when we climbed the stairs was a huge, graceful wooden boat floating in air.

It took 24 seamen to propel this craft, two to each of the oars projecting from its sides.

A new permanent museum will be built to house the barge within 10 years.

Am Air skiing tours

Now that it has new routes into some of the prime ski regions of the U.S., American Airlines has developed a selection of ski tours.

This season's tours range from three to seven days and cost from \$88 to \$453, based on double occupancy and excluding air fare. The tours are in effect through April 30.

In Utah, accommodations are available at Salt Lake City and four nearby areas: Park City, Park West, Alta, and Snowbird. On the Nevada/California border, accommodations are at Heavenly Valley, Squaw Valley, and Kirkwood. In New Mexico, Taos skiers can stay either in the ski valley itself or in the picturesque community of Taos.

At Colorado's Aspen and Utah's Sun Valley, the varied accommodations cluster around the bases of the mountains.

Larry Paskow's
XMAS & NEW YEAR'S
• Gift to You

3rd Person FREE
Adult or Child Tower
Room Rate Includes: 3 MEALS DAILY
• FREE SALT WATER TUBS • SHOWER BATHING
• WATER ENTERTAINMENT • STAY FOR MEN & WOMEN
• GOLF (SEE MAP) • FREE TOWNS (SEE MAP)
• SPECIAL WATER SLIDE • POOL • BEACH • JET SKIING

RESERVE NOW FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR
Call 1-800-327-7510
Dec 20 to Jan 10

HARBOR ISLAND SPA
MIAMI BEACH FLORIDA 33141

wine & cheese and Florida too!

You are cordially invited to join us at a Wine & Cheese Tasting Party to learn all you need to know about Florida living.

- Get details of how you may spend 3 days in sunny Florida including room, meals, and round-trip air fare at one low cost.
- View a full-color slide presentation about Lehigh, Florida, one of America's foremost planned communities.
- Receive a Florida Living Kit. No obligation to purchase.

No Admission Charge
Pre-registration is required

Thursday, November 29, at 7 p.m.
Friday, November 30, at 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Botsford Inn, 2800 Grand River, Detroit, Mich.
Call collect for reservations (313) 363-4393

Sponsored by
LEHIGH CORPORATION

Obtain the HUD property report from developer and read it before signing anything. HUD neither approves the merits of the offering nor the value, if any, of the property. AD 16607 (01) MI-78-469

Weekend Under Glass in Warren

Midway Motor Lodge
GETAWAY WEEKEND FOR \$100 PER COUPLE

- 3 days and 2 nights on the weekend of your choice • \$20 in "Midway Money" to spend in the Hoffman House Restaurant, plus 4 cocktails in the Cabaret Show Lounge • Free use of the glass domed recreation area with indoor swimming pool, sun lamp canopy, whirlpool, saunas and ping-pong (\$4 extra per night for poolside room) • Children under 12 stay free in your room • Advance reservations are required.

31800 Van Dyke
Warren, Michigan 48093
(313) 939-2860

You Must book early!

Christmas - New Years
all via UNITED AIRLINES

HONOLULU	ACAPULCO	LAS VEGAS
12/24 - 31 '59	12/21 - 28 '49	12/23 - 27 '59
12/31 - 1/7 '59	12/28 - 1/4 '49	12/30 - 1/3 '59

ST. THOMAS	SAN JUAN	CRUISE
12/22 - 29 '60	12/22 - 29 '60	12/22 - 29 '60
12/29 - 1/5 '59	12/29 - 1/5 '59	12/29 - 1/5 '60

All base rates are per person and will fluctuate with hotel choice. All programs feature jet airfare, hotel accommodations, airport transfers, baggage handling, some sightseeing, extras

Call: (313) 557-5145 or your travel agent