



People who take time to breathe deeply and slow down their cars will find another world, a genuine travel adventure, under the bridge. This is the real Bahamian world of fishing boats, fresh conch with lime juice out of the shell, vegetable markets, and the sea. (Photos by Micky Jones)



## travel log

Iris Sanderson Jones

### Learning to fish nets storytelling license

The tiniest hint of spring makes me think about fishing. No, I'm not a fisherman, but one warm wet day and I get romantic about it.

#### tripping

• The Shrine Circus keeps the best of P.T. Barnum's three rings alive and well at the State Fairgrounds Coliseum, March 14-30.

• The 1980 National Indoor Speed Skating Championships bring ice skating thrills March 21-23 to Yack Arena in Wyandotte.

• NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships provide fast-paced competition March 14 and 15 at the Joe Louis Arena, Detroit.

• This year, Central Michigan University will host the nation's ranking women's basketball teams. The AIAW National Basketball Championships are scheduled for March 21 and 22 at Rose Arena, Mt. Pleasant. The two best teams battle for the championship title on Sunday.

• Antiques and collectibles from plain to fancy, serviceable to frivolous will be at several antique shows coming up. The World Antique Show will be at Lansing's Civic Center March 1-2; the Spring Antique Show and Sale follows March 12-16 at Detroit's Light Guard Armory; and the Michigan Antiques Show and Sale, March 28-30, at Crisler Arena, Ann Arbor.

• Maple Sugaring Weekend, March 15-16, at Kalamazoo's Nature Center. Maple syrup tours are Sundays during March at the Chippewa Nature Center, Midland. The Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, will hold its Maple Syrup Festival March 15-16, 22-23 and 29-30.

• Michigan stages are bright with talent and entertaining productions this month. "The Play's the Thing," a comedy romance written by Ferenc Molnar and adapted by P.G. Wodehouse at Meadowbrook Theatre at Oakland University, Rochester, beginning March 27.

The Kalamazoo Civic Players present the Broadway smash "Furber" March 28-30 at the Carver Center, Kalamazoo.

Two one-act plays, "Johnny and Wilma" and "Shock of Recognition" will be offered by the Players Guild of Dearborn, March 7-8, and 9 at the Guild Theatre.

• For music lovers, the Bach Festival March 1, 2, and 8, Stetson Chapel, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo; the Julliard String Quartet, March 4 at Fairchild Theatre, MSU, East Lansing; familiar classics with the Saginaw Symphony Orchestra at Saginaw's Civic Center, March 9; pianist Gary Graffman with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, March 18 at Kalamazoo's Miller Auditorium.

It's not spring yet. What started me thinking early this year was a package of materials from the American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association which was full of news about how to make your own artificial fishing hole.

The fishing holes I remember were made by a higher authority, but there is a trend afoot to build artificial fish attractors in lakes and streams and to teach kids how to fish.

Fishing is an important part of the travel experience, although nobody ever actually taught me how to fish. I have several pictures in my head of fish I have known, and cooked, most of which nobody would eat.

This first picture is of the only big fish I ever hooked, while floating on Lake Taupo, a bottomless volcanic lake in New Zealand. My husband spent the first hour of that fishing trip telling me how to catch a trout, and the second hour sulking because I caught a fish and he didn't.

I cooked it in a woody cottage beside the lake, but he wasn't very hungry.

YEARS LATER, MY 8-year-old son came home from a fishing expedition with a bucket full of live smelt. My husband found me with my nose wrinkled up, trying to kill them one by one by whacking them over the head.

In disgust, he dumped the pail full of live smelt into sink, where they kicked and screamed until dead. I cleaned them, breaded them and fried the little devils. When it came time to eat them, nobody was hungry.

There are several pictures in my mind, collected over the years while vacationing in northern Ontario, of canoes pushing out from the dock at twilight. Usually there was a three-part silhouette: a fisherman's hat, a fishing pole and a dog's head, ears alert.

Often, the hat and the dog came back and the fishing rod was usually empty. Sooner or later I got the message. My family likes to fish but so one liked to eat fish, even when man and dog fall into the lake together reeling them in.

I like to eat fish, so at that point I decided I would take the next opportunity to catch one myself. And I would eat it all alone.

My first chance came during a trip to Egypt last year when I was invited to fish in the Red Sea. Simon Gardew, who works at the Sheraton Hotel in Hurgada, assured me I need only toss a line over the side and fish would bite every three minutes.

Somebody caught a fish every three minutes, but it wasn't me or any of the other travelers aboard. It was a young Egyptian crewmember who literally hauled them in as fast as he could throw out his line. Somebody probably taught him how to fish.

IF YOU WOULD like to teach your kid how to fish, the AFTMA would like to help you. The support a Sport Fishing Educational Foundation, a non-profit service organization that will help community groups with local fish and wildlife officials in constructing artificial attractor sites.

Free step-by-step information on how to build a fishing hole is available from Fishing Holes, 2625 Clearbrook Dr. Arlington Heights, Ill. 60005. They'll also send you information on how to start a youth fishing club, and teach your kids how to fish.

Take a Kid Fishing will be the theme of National Fishing Week May 12-18.

## Paradise at one end, treasure buried below

By IRIS SANDERSON JONES

We live in a fast-moving world, so most travelers see only a bridge, its toll booth where cars or taxis pay \$2 for the round-trip toll, and the high-rise skyline of an island.

For most people who visit the Bahamas, this is just another bridge. On the map, it makes a short line from Nassau to Paradise Island, with a small stretch of land called Potter's Cay in the water between.

Tourists cross Paradise Island Bridge all the time, because it takes them to the casinos, restaurants and resort hotels of Paradise Island. The island relates to Nassau in much the same way that Belle Isle relates geographically to Detroit.

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LIFE IN THE Bahamas has always been designed by the sea. The early explorers and the pirates made themselves at home among these 700 islands and 2,000 cays spread across the blue-green water of the South Atlantic. The islands share the life of the Caribbean although technically they are still in the South Atlantic.

Columbus was here. Ponce de Leon came this way looking for the Fountain of Youth; his destination was the nearby island of Bimini, but he somehow managed to sail east to Florida.

The high white prows of modern cruise ships cut through Nassau Harbor regularly to Prince George Wharf, where they dock near the straw market at Rawson Square.

Cruise passengers make regular treks along the coastal highway north to the Paradise Island Bridge. Only a few know enough to get off on the Nassau side and walk across.

What you can see from the top of the bridge is the whole harbor and city skyline of Nassau. You can watch the seaplanes and the glass-bottomed bumboats come into the island.

The cruise ships make a high-masted skyline against the city. At twilight, when the sun backlights the sailboats that make stretched triangles against the sea, you can take travel poster photographs of the harbor.

If you lean over the edge and look down with a telephoto lens, you can photograph the fishing boats and the stalls on Potter's Cay and on the wharf that now ties the cay to the mainland.

POTTER'S CAY is where the housewives of Nassau shop for fresh fruit, vegetables, and fish.

If you have ever bought a single polished conch shell in these warm-water seas, you will be amazed to see a mountain of them rising out of the sea near the fishing docks.

Conch is one of the food staples of the island, and conch lovers eat it raw. It's called Scorch Conch. The fisherman loosens the conch from its shell, scratches the surface of the meat tenderize it in the same way one would cube beef tenderize it. You eat the conch with lime juice and the shell you throw aside on the mountain of shells nearby.

Look closely at the fishing boats and you will see fresh fish swimming, albeit in somewhat jammed conditions, in a water hole at the center of the dock. Most of the fish are grouper, another mainstay of islanders' menus.

This is only a shallow stretch of water between the city and Paradise Island but it is not unusual to see a real fishing drama take place here. While we watched one day, a young fisherman jerked upright as his line began to tug against the side of his boat. What came splashing to the surface was a tarpon, a fish that was almost as big as the fisherman himself.

THE FOOT OF the bridge is also an ideal location for travelers who want to try local Bahamian food. The Bridge Inn has a happy hour that at

tracts knowing travelers from all over the world, all of whom are willing to be jammed into tables around the small bar. It's an insiders' place. The adjacent dining room serves good Bahamian food.

In that short stretch of East Bay Street that runs east of the Paradise Island Bridge towards the end of the island, you will find several restaurants recommended by local people for good Bahamian food and moderate prices.

The Pilot House Hotel is on the same side of the street at the Bridge Inn. Nearby is the Fish Net. Across from the Pilot House, on the waterfront, where your table has a full view of the fishing docks, the harbor, and the bridge.

I recommend the Poopdeck for anyone who likes simple surroundings, good seafood at moderate prices, and a million-dollar view.

Local specialties include conch fritters, conch chowder, conch salad, peas and rice, and grouper fingers.

Paradise Island Bridge is a world of its own. It gives you a very personal view of Nassau. All you need is a little more time to go off the main tourist track and explore.



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## Wine seminar sails the Rhine

Heaven. They'll be in heaven . . . for a week of talking and tasting wine and touring the cellars and vineyards along the Rhine and Moselle rivers.

The KD German Rhine Line's ship Britannia will sail Aug. 27 from Basel, Switzerland, to Rotterdam. Along the way, Dr. Hans Ambrosi, author, director of the Eltville State Vineyards

and co-founder of the German Wine Academy, will lead seminars on the various states of the grape.

For information on the 1980 seminar (two are planned for 1981) write: Rhine Cruise Agency, 170 Hamilton Ave., White Plains, N.Y. 10601; or call 1-914-948-3600.

## History and scenery in Reno/Tahoe tours

Scenery and history are the subjects of new Reno/Lake Tahoe 1980 tours created by Sierra West Adventures of San Francisco.

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and the MGM Grand, including the dinner or late showing of "Hello, Hollywood, Hello!"

All two-night Reno packages include sightseeing tour of Virginia City.

A four-night/five day program, the Sierra Holiday, features two nights in Reno at the Comstock, with two breakfasts and fun park coupons; a car rental with unlimited mileage for two days for the stunning ride to North Lake Tahoe and two nights either at the Hyatt Lake Tahoe, in Incline Village, or Cal-Neva Lodge on blue-green Crystal Bay.

Brochures and reservations are available at local travel agencies or United Airlines. The programs are produced by Sierra West Adventures, 111 Pine Street, San Francisco, Calif. 94111.



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