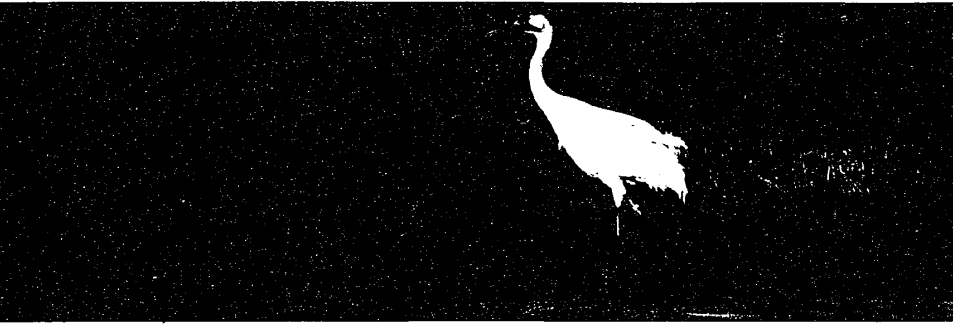




Corpus Christi has much to recommend itself to a getting-chillier-by-the-minute northerner, such as the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge and its flock of whooping cranes and (left) a relaxing seaside setting.

By IRIS SANDERSON JONES

The French explorers went south centuries ago, but they didn't go to Florida. They went down the mighty Mississippi River to New Orleans.

The whooping cranes go south for the winter, too. They go to Corpus Christi, Tex., when they are not showing up in a Tom Robbins novel.

Louisiana and Texas are two major gulf coast travel destinations often overlooked by northern travelers heading south away from the snow. Here is a capsule view of New Orleans with side trips up the Mississippi to Natchez or along the gulf to Cajun country, and a capsule view of Corpus Christi with a side trip to San Antonio and Laredo.

NEW ORLEANS is a product of its geography and its history, a river city rooted in French and Spanish culture, with both Indian and black Caribbean island flavors.

The heart of New Orleans is the French Quarter, the original planned city of the Sieur de Bienville in the 18th century, and the area rebuilt by the Spanish after a fire in 1790.

Here the narrow streets are shadowed by wrought iron balconies and hanging flower pots, with brief but revealing glimpses into the courtyards of another era.

Mardi Gras and every-night carousing are centered on Bourbon Street, but visitors walk their way through both history and good food in all parts of the Quarter.

In Jackson Square, where the original streets of the city were built beside the river, artists line all sides of the square. They paint portraits near the 18th century government building, The Cabildo, and the adjacent cathedral. They can be seen from the Cafe du Monde, where local people and tourists meet over coffee and hot beignets, square Louisiana doughnuts dusted with powdered sugar.

A few yards down St. Peter Street from Jackson Square you can eat authentic Louisiana food, in the courtyard or at indoor tables, at the Gumbo Shop.

A WALKING TOUR of the French Quarter should include a stop at the Tourist and Convention Bureau office, with its wall murals and tourist information, at 334 Royal St. and the Historic New Orleans Collection, a history museum and research center at 533 Royal St.

New Orleans was socially established by the French, who literally gave it away to the king of Spain because the colony was considered a white elephant. It was the Spanish who opened the ports and established the city economically. It was also the Spanish who gave New Orleans its architecture after the great fire of 1790.

The briefest driving tour of the city should include at least a visit to the St. Louis Cemetery, where marble tombs are built like miniature cathedrals above the ground, and a visit to Longue Gardens, where the manor house has recently been opened to the public.

Sports lovers should also stop at the Superdome.

TWO IMPORTANT side trips are available to northerners who visit this part of Louisiana. The Mississippi Queen, a modern version of the old riverboat, runs weekly up the river to the historic old city of Natchez.

The coast road will take you west through the lesser-known parts of Cajun country to Lafayette. This west side of the river is Evangeline country. This is where the lost lovers of Longfellow's book are said to have been reunited after the British evicted the Acadians (now Cajuns) from Nova Scotia.

Plan your Cajun tour with stops among the shipyards of Morgan City, where they build offshore oil rigs, and visit local authorities have established a unique swamp garden beside the community auditorium.

Visit Shadows on the Teche, a fine plantation in New Iberia, Evangeline's tomb and the great Evangeline oak in St. Martinville, and Acadian Village in Lafayette.

If your journey takes you south, like the whooping crane, to Corpus Christi, you will have an entirely different kind of gulf coast vacation.

CORPUS CHRISTI is on the inland waterway protected by a barrier reef called Padre Island, home of the Padre Island National Seashore. There are condominiums and hotels on the north end of the island near Corpus and on the south end of the island near Brownsville.

The seashore is a lonely stretch of sand beach between low grass-covered dunes and the open sea. Here the Spanish galleons were shipwrecked centuries ago. You can camp or drive a regular car for the first five miles south of the Corpus entrance, but you cannot go further except by four-wheel drive or on foot.

A young man named Jerry Foy runs a regular four-wheel tour of Little Shell and Big Shell Beach, with side runs to the sites of old shipwrecks and the ruins of an old ranch.

If you follow the barrier reef north, you reach Aransas Pass and can cross a strip of water to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. This is where the whooping cranes come for the winter. Tour boats go out to the refuge from the mainland daily.

Taking a hint from the birds before snow begins to blow

You can also reach the area by road from Corpus Christi.

In Corpus Christi residents roller skate regularly along the wall that runs beside the sea between the sailboats and the high-rise skyline of this small southern city.

For information on these alternative winter destinations, contact the city or state tourist bureaus

for the areas that interest you: Greater New Orleans Tourist and Convention Commission, 334 Rue Royal, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130; Louisiana Tourist Development Commission, Department X5, P.O. Box 44291, Baton Rouge, La. 70804; Texas Tourist Development Agency, P.O. Box 12008 JJ, Austin, Tex. 78711; Corpus Christi Area Convention and Tourist Bureau, P.O. Box 1147, Corpus Christi, Tex. 78403.

New Orleans is a product of its geography and its history, a river city rooted in French and Spanish culture.

WEATHER...WHEN IT
TURNS FOR THE WORST
TURN TO THE BEST.

WWW
NEWSRADIO
95

OCEANFRONT RESORT
HUTCHINSON ISLAND
STUART, FLORIDA

Directly on the beautiful
unspoiled beaches of Indian
River Plantation

Challenging 18 hole golf
course, 1800 ft. tennis courts,
heated pools, fine dining, and
cocktail lounge

Fully furnished 1, 2 and 3
bedroom condominium
apartments with ocean lake
view, or river view. Monthly
rentals from \$950.00 or
yearly rentals call Jeanette
Alexander at (305) 225-3700

Or Write:
Indian River Plantation Resort
Hutchinson Island
365 N.E. Plantation Road
Stuart, Florida 34952

FLORIDA'S GREATEST HOTEL VALUE!
4 DAYS FREE!

PAY FOR 7 DAYS—STAY FOR 11 DAYS
#1 SPA IN AMERICA!

FROM
\$38¹⁸+

CALL TOLL FREE
1-800-327-7510

Larry Paskow's
HARBOR ISLAND SPA
7000 HARBOR ISLAND, MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA 33141
Write or Call for Information & Free Color Brochure



travel log
Iris
Jones
contributing travel editor

Directory nets itself a bogey

I don't know a birdie from a gold fish, but I like to acknowledge those readers who would rather golf than eat. Since this is the time of year when golfers start dreaming of faraway warm places, I have asked a golfing enthusiast to evaluate a golf directory that recently came in the mail.

The book is called "The International Golf Directory," and it claims to list all known golf resorts and golf-oriented hotels. The directory is published especially for travel agents and their golfing clients.

My friend, Marge Dickinson of Birmingham, is well-known as a mystery writer, but her friends also know that she is a compulsive golfer. If you want to talk to her during warm weather, you must follow her from tee to tee or catch her when it's too dark to hit a ball.

I couldn't think of a better reviewer than her for this book. Her reactions were mixed.

"It does give good details on places to stay and some of the golf clubs nearby, plus golf packages and special rates or arrangements the hotel can provide for their guests. Illustrations are excellent and foreign coverage appealing," Marge says.

"The problem for me was trying to find a resort I'd heard about but didn't know whether it was in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia or Timbuctu. The area grouping method was somewhat confusing.

"I'd like to see a master index listing golf courses or golf resorts in alphabetical order. Also, judging from the Florida section I'm familiar with, there are many golf courses omitted, which means no doubt that they weren't contacted or didn't want to be included.

"I could name five or six excellent courses in the Jupiter area that weren't mentioned."

MARGE CONCLUDES that the directory would be useful to travel agents, and a good starting point for foreign vacation planning, but that she and her husband would probably continue to check out places by going through issues of golf magazines and then checking with AAA.

The directory might still be useful to some golfers, so if you would like to know more, contact the International Golf Directory, 444 Burchett St., Glendale, Calif. 91223. The semi-annual directory is \$12.50 per issue. You might want to check if a copy is available in your travel agent's office.

If you would rather sail than golf, the Moorings Ltd., owners of the Moorings charter resort in Road Town, Tortola, will open a second charter resort on Marigot Bay, St. Lucia, in November.

The new resort offers landside accommodations and dining, as well as a fleet of Mariner 39 boats for bareboat charter. Construction is also under way for a landside rental complex to open in St. Lucia in the spring of 1981.

Without "The Big Oh", Detroit Just Wouldn't Be Detroit!



It'd be Detroit! And really, now . . . can you imagine cheering for the Detroit Lions? Or listening to the beautiful sounds of the Detroit Symphony.

Ah . . . but there is an "Oh"! It's WOMC FM 104 . . . "Detroit's Big Oh", and it has the oh-so-popular music and personalities you love.

Like Marc Avery to get you going every morning from 6 to 10. And Tom Dean to cheer you up from 10 am to 2 pm. Plus Nick Arama to brighten your afternoons from 2 to 6 pm.

Oh-Oh! We almost forgot to mention the other Detroit favorites on "The Big Oh"—Bob Charlton,

Greg Russell and Steve Peck. They'll lighten up and liven up your life like nobody's business!

So turn on "The Big Oh" today—WOMC FM 104. It's the only "oh" in Detroit . . . er . . . Detroit!

DETROIT'S BIG OH
WOMC
FM 104
MILITARY/INDUSTRIAL INC.