

street seen

Charlene Mitchell

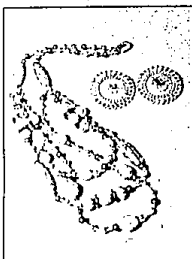


Street Seen reporter Charlene Mitchell is always looking for the unusual and the unique. She welcomes comments and suggestions from readers and enterprising entrepreneurs. Write her in care of this newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150, or call 591-2300, Ext. 313.



Sitting duck

A hand-carved wooden duck which opens into two separate pieces — a wonderful accessory to hide old love letters, bills or stash fun money. When the two pieces come together, no one can even tell that the duck comes apart. Approximately 20 inches long and 11 inches high. \$110. Jeff Fontana Designs, Royal Oak.



Nifty neutrals

Local artist Vanessa Moore-head pulls out all the stops with this exotic pin and earring combination made of gunmetal and bronze beads hanging on a lightweight strands of metal. The tri-colored combination is neutral enough to go with just about anything in your wardrobe. Ms. Tighe Accessories Plus, 2605 Greenstone, Rochester, 332-8577.

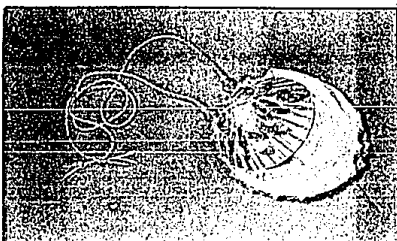
Around the clock

For those whose taste and time schedules call for something different, these one-of-a-kind wrist watches are just the thing. Each face has a hand-painted oil painting by artist David Scherer. Choose between electronic quartz movement or windup style. Bands are exotic skin: alligator, lizard, eel, pigskin or cat. \$95-\$175. Detroit Artists Market, Scott Gregory, Northland, It Was I, Birmingham; and Emery's, West Bloomfield.



Join the party

"Cost Party" by Robin Morris, an original lithograph, 28-by-39 inches, edition of 350. Wonderful colors of crimson, purple, white, green and black. \$600. The Art Show Gallery, Sugar Tree shopping center, Orchard Lake Lake Road, north of Maple in West Bloomfield.



Ever see such a shell?

Look again — this silver leather evening bag has a genuine jumbo seashell closure painted in silver and decorated in silver sequins and tiny bugle beads and shell pearls. Braided leather shoulder strap. Lift the shell, and there's your opening to the purse. A knockout with evening wear. Can be worn on the shoulder, or around the neck as a necklace while functioning as a purse as well. \$180. Ms. Tighe Accessories Plus, 2605 Greenstone, Rochester.

STREET WISE

A grand tour

Sure, we all want to take the grand tour of Europe. But there are such minor things as the cost that seem to keep us dreaming.

Well, American Youth Hostels Inc. may have the answer. It will be offering a European travel workshop, beginning at 1 p.m., Sunday, April 10, at the Berkeley Community Center, 2400 Rockwood Road, Berkeley.

AYHI is a non-profit organization affiliated with the International Youth Hostel movement, offering low-cost accommodations for travelers.

The workshop will feature information on budget air fares, transportation and lodging as well as free travel literature and scores of budget travel tips.

Even the cost of the workshop has a tight budget in mind. It's only \$5.

And if you're busy on April 10, don't fret. The workshop will be repeated at 7 p.m., Monday, May 16.

For more information, call AYHI Michigan Council at 545-0511.

Be prepared

Remember when it was the Boy Scouts who were encouraged to "be prepared."

Well, with AIDS putting the damper on the sexual revolution, "be prepared" now translates into safe sex. The Tech Woman division of Tech Accessories Group Inc. is test marketing the first of its new personal products line for women, appropriately named "Only You."

"Only You" is a personal compact, designed to hold up to three condoms and fit into a purse or pocket.

As the Tech Accessories president

Ken Eisenbraun put it: "Condom manufacturers are finding that, in today's social climate, women are becoming purchasers of their products. . . . We at Tech Woman believe these contemporary consumers would want a circumspect yet attractive way to carry the condoms, and we developed a compact to meet that need."

The plastic case is available in four colors — silver, black, tortoise shell and pink — at K mart stores. For more information, call Dr. Drugs and Moller stores for \$2.98.

A modified life

Do you need to stop smoking? Lose weight? Lower your cholesterol level? Manage the stress in your life better?

If you answered yes to any of those questions, you might want to consider a vacation package designed to help you do all of the above.

Dr. Arthur Weaver, professor of surgery at Wayne State University, and his Better Living Seminars, are sponsoring a lifestyle modification health camp May 22-29 at Ranch Au Sable in Grayling.

The live-in seminars to be offered include stop smoking, weight control, creative cooking without meat and stress management.

The week-long camp costs \$325 per person or \$540 for a husband and wife.

For a free brochure, write Better Living Seminars at P.O. Box 574, Plymouth 48170 or call 882-7348 or 349-5683.

'Roos to opals: Doing it Aussie style

By Iris Sanderson Jones
special writer

I didn't meet Crocodile Dundee or dive the Great Barrier Reef, but I did everything else I ever wanted to do in Australia.

I saw koala bears in the wild; chased kangaroos across the outback; dug for opals; took a tea trap Melbourne's royal gardens; visited a sheep farm, where those great Aussie drover coats are everyday wear; and tried all the wine in Oz.

I rode the ferries past the opera house and under the "roast hanger" bridge in Sydney and had shrimp on the barbie. (They really do barbecue that marvelous Australian shrimp at the drop of a digger's hat.)

I had it at a picnic in Melbourne and in a friend's backyard in Sydney after a day of sailing across Botany Bay — that was the same day we had beer and lunch anchored off an "unofficial nude beach."

"It's Ladies Day at Congwong Beach and those cheeky buggers are here again," the captain said when he saw the naked men, parading down the beach. "They've got lots of official nude beaches in Sydney, so why do they have to use this one?"

Botany Bay is where Captain Cook first landed, but the water is pretty shallow so he soon moved on to a

nearby harbor, 750 miles of coastline within the limits of what is now Sydney, the New York City of Australia.

Every American who goes to Australia goes to Sydney to buy boomerangs and other Aussie crafts and to ride the ferry boats that constantly crisscross Sydney harbor.

THEY LOVE us Yanks Down Under. You probably don't realize that the American Revolution had a lot to do with the settlement of Australia 200 years ago. The British needed another place to send the convicts caught stealing books and bread.

When the California gold rush fizzled out, American prospectors followed the cry of "gold" to the Australian state of Victoria. The Aussies credit American forces with saving



MICKY JONES

High rises and the opera house dot the shoreline, while ferries transport people across the expanse of Sydney Harbor.

Divers explore Australia from 'down under'

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Something, however, told him to take another look. And his buddy turned out to be a 6-foot-long shark not more than 10 to 15 feet away.

"When I realized it was a shark, I told myself to stay calm and watch what it was doing," he said. "I just stood there and it started circling me. That's not a real good sign."

The shark circled Scheer once then left and he swam for the surface, where he found his friend.

"We missed each other, and I was the one that ended up with a shark as a buddy," Scheer said. "That's enough to make anyone apprehensive."

KEITH and Theresa Leigh-Monstevens of Troy mixed business and pleasure on the Rec Diving trip. They spent the week diving before heading off to Melbourne, where Theresa, 29, went shopping and Keith, 38, checked in at one of his employer's many international manufacturing plants.

"It was good diving and good weather, we hit it at the right time of the year," Leigh-Monstevens said. "But it's still not as good diving as the Red Sea."

"There's probably a lot of Aussies who'd kill me for saying that."

He took up SCUBA diving 10 years ago because he was "sick and tired of seeing all those Jacques Cousteau movies and not doing it myself."

He's a member of the British Sub Aqua Club's Stratford-on-Avon Club and spent two weeks in 1978 with three friends diving in the Red Sea.

Theresa took up SCUBA diving because of her husband. He involves her in everything he does, and she decided to make an effort when it came to diving.

"With diving you do everything in pairs, and it's nice to know your buddy, also is your spouse," she said. "Now, he accuses me of wanting to do more than him."

The Leigh-Monstevens were among members of the trip who participated in the shark feeding. Keith wasn't the least bit apprehensive, having been around sharks in the Red Sea. Theresa was, but after it was over, she had to admit it was exhilarating.

"It was my first time, and half of me said yes and half of me said no," she said. "He's my buddy, and I felt obligated. I'm glad I did."

THERESA was partial to the drift diving the group did. A small boat ferried out to a spot where they were dropped off and then drifted with the current to a spot where the boat picked them up. If a strange outcropping caught your eye, you needed only grab, explore, then let go and drift with the current, she said.

"Australia was quite spectacular," she said. "I don't know how anything else could beat that, but then I say that about every dive."

"The visibility was great, so were the colors, the fish, the weather. Everything was just superb."

Arranging a diving trip to Australia takes about a year to plan, Kohut said. The land tour and live-on boats must be lined up and airfare reserved in advance, especially this year when the country is celebrating its bicentennial.

Rec Diving uses mini cruise ships — they can accommodate up to 24 passengers — because of the nature of the reef. You can't see the reef from your beachfront hotel, swim a few yards and find the reef. It's between 60 and more than 200 miles offshore.

Sydney is a 'must see'

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Where to go after the fair?

Australia is roughly the same size as the United States mainland. "Crocodile Dundee" was filmed in the tropical swamps of the Northern Territories near Darwin. The America's Cup race was held in West Australia.

Two-thirds of Australia's 16 million people, twice the population of Michigan, live in eight main cities, most in the coastal crescent from Brisbane southwest through Sydney and Melbourne to Adelaide.

Queensland and the Great Barrier Reef offer warm water, sand beaches and wonderful islands. It's like the Caribbean without the Caribbeans.

Sydney, in the state of New South Wales, is a must. It is the scenic, cosmopolitan New York City of Australia.

See Melbourne and surrounding areas of Victoria briefly; Melbourne and Adelaide, South Australia are garden cities surrounded by vineyards.

TASMANIA, Australia's island state, is the furthest south, the coolest and the least traveled. Those who go there love the forested hills, the fishing and the hiking.

Once you get a few hundred miles inland from the coast, mainland Australia is mostly desert, ranging from barren hills through the red landscapes of Broken Hill to the moonlike desolation around Ayers Rock and Alice Springs.

For information, contact your travel agent or Tourism Australia, 2121 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1210, Los Angeles, Calif. 90067.

The diving is fairly shallow — the reef starts at 12 to 15 feet below the surface. Members of the group could dive up to 60 feet with a buddy or use one of two diving guides that accompany the cruise.

"We try to dive in calm, protected waters," Kohut said. "The spots we picked last time were dead calm. There wasn't even a ripple, and we were 280 miles out."

AND WHILE it may take a year to put together such a diving excursion, marketing is literally a piece of cake, Kohut said.

Rec Diving is sponsoring another two-week trip this October. And while it plans to promote it in its next edition of Diving Times, half of the 20 slots are already filled, filled by word of mouth.

"Word of mouth is our best and biggest advertisement," Kohut said. "People sign up because of the place, the time — it fits in with their vacation plans — or it's the group leader they want to go with."

"The first time we took 18 people to Australia, and we had a waiting list."

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