

# How to escape yuletide crazies

Continued from Page 1

as ridiculous as anything you will find in a foreign marketplace and at twice the price. When you are broke and living on a credit card, there is nothing like a little luxury to warm you up.

THIS IS the kind of fast getaway available to any creative traveler, perfect for anyone who wants to play without dashing through the snow, one-horse open sleigh or otherwise.

If you prefer a Ritz closer to home, you can always stay at the Ritz-Carlton Dearborn and run across the Fairlane Shopping Center parking lot for last-minute stocking stuffers.

How about New Year's Eve at the Dearborn Ritz? The highlight is a black-tie ball, complete with champagne and "European canapés on silver trays." There's a six-course dinner that goes from pine nut sauce and duck galantine through goose liver, smoked salmon, wild cherry sorbet and veal in port wine to midnight chocolate terrine in pistachio Grand Marnier sauce.

HOW MUCH? \$400 per couple. And if you want to stay overnight, \$450 per couple. Hmm. Fifty bucks for a room at the Ritz. Not bad.

Do they create this craziness in other countries? Come, my friends, to Finland, where Santa Claus is alive and well in Rovaniemi, capital city of the province of Lapland. You can enjoy husky dog and snowmobile safaris, icebreaker cruises and tour the Arctic Circle. Santa's reindeer may be busy Christmas Eve, but all those other reindeer are ready and waiting in Lapland.

Every single reindeer in Lapland is owned by one of 4,000 Lapps, who let them run wild all year but round them up for branding in the spring.

Tired of hearing about Dancer, Prancer and Rudolph? Get your revenge. Eat smoked reindeer. Buy a reindeer skin.

OKAY, OKAY, so you don't appreciate reindeer skins. Join the other 30,000 people who write to Santa in Lapland and plan to take a mate for a honeymoon or a romantic getaway in a pine-log cabin in Luosio, or go ice fishing above the Arctic Circle. . . . or . . .

See what I mean about getting ding-dong during the season? There are, of course, sensible things you can do. Go to New York and skate at Rockefeller Center, or go to Washington and skate at the Sculpture Garden Rink.

Fly to San Francisco and stay overnight at the Raphael in San Francisco for \$69, single or double, airplane costs additional. That's good through March 1, if the ringing in your ears lasts that long.

Now we are talking about post-seasonal survival. Call up Northwest Airlines. They've gone a little ding-dong, too, and are offering terrific fares from any Northwest airport to almost any city in Canada for \$212 round trip.

BUY THE ticket before Jan. 8, start traveling Jan. 8 through Feb. 15 and be home by Feb. 21. You should grab that one for somebody's Christmas stocking before Northwest figures out what it has done and changes its mind!

You could go to Nashville and celebrate Christmas at Opryland or Twitty City. Excuse me, Twitty City. A fitting name for the season.

You could go to Toledo. Just how desperate are you? You could go back and have Christmas in the 18th century at Colonial Williamsburg in

Virginia. Or spend Christmas in Charleston or Savannah.

The Festival of Lights is really lighting up Cincinnati. You might still get a ticket and cheap air fare to spend the yule aboard the Delta Queen or the Mississippi Queen.

THE AUTOMOBILE Club of Michigan is still taking reservations for the Rose Bowl Tour Dec. 29 through Jan. 5.

Don't quote me, but I understand you can still get yuletide reservations at the SuperClubs in Jamaica, and that you can still rent a condo in Orlando, Florida, from Endless Vacations (800) 447-8004.

What am I going to do? I kind of like the idea of a weekend at Water Tower Place in Chicago. My fantasy is that I could check in Friday evening, reconnoiter the territory and stop for a drink at one of those Chicago-style bars on the mezzanine, check the movies at the multiple movie house near the elevator, smell the chocolate ice cream at Kron's (it's too expensive to eat), take several deep breaths as I pass D.B. Kaplan's Bar and Deli (500 calories for every deep breath).

I would finish the weekend with brunch at The Cafe. When it was time to come home, I'd be broke, fat and happy, and the yuletide season would be over.



A young woman works with a large reindeer on a reindeer farm near Rovaniemi on the Arctic Circle in Finland.

MICKY JONES

## On the Town

DINING &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

### Gala New Year's Eve Party

7:30 P.M. - 2:30 A.M.

The Karas House

23632 Plymouth Road

(1 block E. of Telegraph) Redford

\$110 per Couple Includes:

Champagne at Midnight, Hors d'Oeuvres &amp; Dinner

OVER 25 KINDS OF HOT &amp; COLD HORS D'OEUVRES

PATE &amp; CHEESE TABLE

DESSERT TABLE

Featuring:

— CARVING AND SEAFOOD TABLES

Bountiful Prime Rib, or Sirloin Steak, Pot Roast, or Beef Stroganoff, Shrimp, Scallops, Crab

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