

Edging out, one step at a time

Continued from Page 6

The room had one water bed and one regular bed. On the water bed, Hilary showed Neil how to create great swells that would rival the famous scenery. Neil tumbled over to the other bed and threw himself on it with a thud. "This one's not working," he said.

Even with this new experience in the room, we soon went out to sightsee. With much walking, driving and bus riding from the beginning instead of any attempt at a nap at such an exciting time, we tired out the four of us and mastered the family-foursome style of lodging. In our case, this means everybody turns in at the same time. By the second day, we even came back to the motel for nap time.

INSTILLING THE SPIRIT OF THE ROAD

Between trips, Doreen and I looked for ways to build family interest in seeing new places. From U.S. map puzzles and place names to pulling in distant radio stations and talking about the places they come from, as well as talking about other countries when they are mentioned on the news, we make a conscious effort to link ourselves to that big world out there. The anticipation of future vacations grows from there.

So with this "training" in place, we felt ready this past summer to put it all together.

THE FIRST REAL VACATION

The vacation we'd been building toward is a week or more on the road, wide-eyed at the different scenery on some days, stepping to see a part of America where people really live and work on others. This summer's drive through Pennsylvania, destination Washington D.C., was the goal realized.

An 8½-year-old and 3½-year-old properly



DAN ALPERT

The morning after the first sleepless "motel room night," Hilary, 6, Neil, 1 and Doreen Alpert enjoy the day at Sea World.

backgrounded, know the futility of asking, "When will we get there?" Hilary and Neil now look through maps and AAA travel books, as well as their own books as we drive.

At one point, while Hilary tried to concentrate on a book we'd checked out on the Capital, Neil was babbling about about "his" mid-Atlantic states book. "Neil, read to yourself," she implored. "Hi, I am," he explained.

Snacks in the car and at rest areas help to pass the time, and so does a tape recorder in the back seat, a "companion" since those early 1-84 days.

The first night, we stayed at a low cost chain motel on the outskirts of Pittsburgh and spent a few pleasant hours with relatives in the area. The

next day, it was on through the hills to Washington. There, we checked in to a \$98 per night family package at Loew's L'Enfant Plaza right in "Government Land." We could leave the car there and get around easily and with much excitement on the subway ("M" is for Metro) or by walking. A stroller for Neil turned out to be well worth the bother for all the carrying it saved us.

Arrangements made in advance with the office of our Congressman William Broomfield were most helpful in our seeing the memorable institutions of the Capital, and with planning we could see the Bureau of Engraving and Printing visit the Library of Congress and Supreme Court, take a nap, go paddleboating on the Tidal Basin and see the Washington Monument in a typical day.

The drive back from D.C. was not rushed and included another smooth motel night, but by the end, it was clear that one week was the right length for this vacation. We were glad to be home.

WESTWARD HO?

We'll be pushing the vacation lengths in the years to come. Hilary's angling to start coloring the maps west of the Mississippi and listening to radio stations whose call letters begin with K. Or it may be up into some less traveled parts of the Canada for the beginnings of "foreign" travel.

We'll keep edging out, a step at a time and see where it leads.

Daniel Alpert has been senior vice president and assistant general manager of WTVS/Channel 58 since October, 1982. Originally from Chicago, Dan has worked for public television and radio stations and commercial radio operations in Lansing, East Lansing and New York. He has been a news reporter, writer, producer, on-air talent and survey researcher.

travel bits

Second honeymoon contest

If your honeymoon turned out to be one of the most calamitous or hilarious times of your life, Stouffer Orlando Resort and the Travel Channel would like to hear from you.

The two winning couples, one, the most calamitous and the other, the most hilarious, will receive a chance to redo their honeymoon with an all expense-paid Magic Honeymoon anniversary package to Stouffer Orlando Resort in Orlando, Fla.

Resort personnel will provide all the amenities to make this second honeymoon as elegant and romantic as the first one should have been.

Stouffer also provides one 1-day pass to Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom, EPCOT Center or MGM Studios and one 1-day pass to Sea World of Florida or Universal Studios. Round trip transfers for each adult for two days for two attractions will also be provided.

To enter the contest, send a letter describing your experience to Stouffer Orlando Second Honeymoon, Dept. HSP, 52 Vanderbilt Avenue, 13th Floor, New York, N.Y., 10017. The deadline for entries is July 31. Winners will be notified by Aug. 15, 1990.

Feel free to document your essay with photographs, video or other materials that will enhance your story. Materials will not be returned so don't send originals.

Soviet Migs

Two Soviet MiG-29 Fulcrum fighter jets will make their first U.S. appearance July 7-8 at the High on Kalamazoo Air Show.

The MiG-29s will arrive in Kalamazoo on July 3 for the first leg of a three stop goodwill tour that will include the Chicago area and a visit to the Dayton, Ohio air show.

One MiG-29 will perform an aerial demonstration during the air show and the second MiG-29 and an IL-76 Candid transport plane will be on public display during the event. They will depart Kalamazoo July 10.

The MiG-29 Fulcrum is a single-seat, twin engine fighter jet that is comparable to the U.S. Air Force F-15 Eagle.

The length of the MiG is 57 feet with a wingspan of 37 feet. It is capable of exceeding 920 mph and altitudes up to 56,000 feet. It is also capable of vertical acceleration and can fly for 1,300 miles before refueling.

Tips on trips

Don't let a pesky travel ailment ruin your vacation. The Traveling Healthy guidebook provides detailed information about how to prevent travel-related illness and how to treat those that occur.

The 20-page guidebook also identifies ailments frequently suffered by travelers and outlines ways to reduce exposure to infection, identify symptoms and alleviate discomfort. And the book features nearly 100 suggestions on ways to ward off illness including how to pack the proper medications.

Like the national travel health survey, the guidebook is part of the Pepto-Bismol etamulol Travel Health Program sponsored by Procter & Gamble.

For a free copy of Traveling Healthy, write to: P.O. Box 10208, New Brunswick, NJ, 08906-9910.

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The one day, no stay trip to Atlantic City

Continued from Page 6

It's easy to distinguish the novice gamblers on the one-day rendezvous from the hard core gamblers. It's not by the amount of money they lay out, but by the way they act, said Fred Pratt, a Tropworld supervisor.

"Once you watch you can tell the green peas," he said. "When they come to the blackjack table not knowing what to do, I usually recommend they go to the slots where luck can help them out if they aren't familiar with the other games. Otherwise they get taken."

Although gambling takes center stage for the daring, there are lots of other fun and cheap things to do during your day in Atlantic City.

Sightseeing is exciting, especially with the new Taj Mahal Casino and

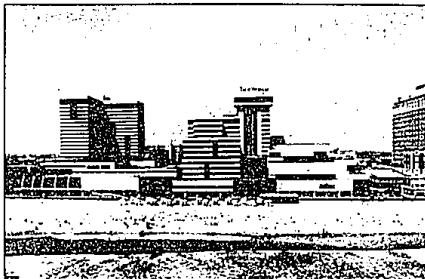
Resort recently built by Donald Trump

And there's plenty to look at and enjoy at Tropworld. Just beyond the Slot City Estates lies a section they call, "Slot City by the Sea" featuring a wall with four aquariums filled with tropical fish.

On the other side is the Sandbar cocktail lounge which gives visitors the feeling of being at the water's edge.

There is too much here to see and do in one day, but if you'll never have a dull moment.

Hamilton Miller, Hudson & Fayne sends three flights a week to Atlantic City and may add one more flight to meet the growing demand for the one-day trips. The trips to Atlantic City leave every Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday morning from Detroit Metro Airport via Continental Airlines.



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