

It's no 'Love Boat' and that's all right

Continued from previous page.

did show of northern lights late one evening. "The sky was lit up with hanging streaks of color, constantly changing," Mary said.

The steamers make two or three stops a day. The automatic gangplank unfolds, the cargo doors open, and passengers are off to see the town while the cargo — mail, canned goods, cars — is unloaded.

Every stop was different and interesting in its own way. Mary Brown said, mentioning Bergen's famous fish market and "the most beautiful bables I've ever seen."

"The ship's time of departure is posted and you'd better say attention, because they mean it," Tom Brown said. "One woman had to make a desperate leap to get back on board."

Several optional shore excursions are offered to north and southbound passengers. One is a seven-hour bus trip from Ornes to Bordo, an especially scenic drive. Another is a visit to the Soviet border.

Tromsø is a major stop, Norway's third largest city, with a medieval cathedral and a museum devoted to music. Another is Molde, known for its roses. The 67-snow-capped mountains, and Vardo, far to the north, where the town's one precious tree is carefully wrapped up during the winter.

A booklet titled "2,500 Miles on

the Coastal Steamer" supplies intriguing stories about each stop. Leka, for instance, is where a 4-year-old child was seized by an eagle, carried to a nearby mountain top, and lived to tell the tale. If you find that hard to believe, read on: "In 1979, a committee was set up at Leka to combat the unbelieve-

Transo, an island town with a bridge connecting it to the mainland, was, like many coastal towns, used as a German naval base during World War II, heavily bombed and later rebuilt.

Both the Browns and the Chaves found their accommodations aboard ship comfortable and cozy. ("That's a positive way of saying small," Mary Brown said.) The food was good, not elaborate, and served generously. "It helps if you like fish, cheese, black bread and pickles," Priscilla Chave said.

Liquor is expensive, as it is everywhere in Scandinavia. A bottle of beer costs the equivalent of \$6 on board ship. "If you like having a happy hour, you'd better RYOB," Tom Brown said.

The two local couples liked the fact that these were working ships, carrying a variety of "real people" traveling from one town to another, rather than the fun-crazed celebrants of cruise-line fame. "There were interesting people to talk to, particularly the college-age kids.

And no costume parties! No talent shows! No midnight buffets!" Priscilla Chave noted happily.

Tom Brown said he was sitting on an outside deck, enjoying the sun, when a young Norwegian began an intriguing conversation by asking, "Do you believe in God?"

A brief ceremony is held when the ships cross the Arctic Circle, with "King Neptune" handing out certificates to the passengers. And passing through the Trollfjord is occasion for serving a special "Trollfjord soup." But that's about all there is in the organized entertainment line.

Said Mary Brown: "Everybody dresses casually. You need sweaters and crepe-soled shoes. I had one dress but never wore it. Tom never put on a tie." In 14 days, they had one rough day and missed one dinner. The Chaves had smooth sailing all the way.

Both couples traveled with friends. "It was nice, but not something you had to do," Mary Brown said. "We wouldn't have been bored alone."

They disembarked at every day-time stop, exploring the towns, taking walks, and doing a little shopping. On board the ship they re-played bridge and spent a lot of time out on deck, enjoying the ever-changing light and the sea air. "And most of all, we drank in the

gorgeous scenery going by," Mary Brown said.

Most Americans fly first to Oslo, Norway's capital, and spend a few days looking at relics of Viking ships, the Norwegian Folk Museum and Thor Heyerdahl's Kon-Tiki raft.

Priscilla and Grant Chave particularly recommended the Vigeland Sculpture Park — a unique place, full of fountains and sculpture by one man, Gustav Vigeland.

"It's wonderful and very moving, but hard to describe," Priscilla said. "You just have to see it. We've been back to Oslo three times because of that park."

The Chaves also recommend taking the train from Oslo to Bergen, where passengers board the coasters. "It takes about six hours and you have to reserve ahead because it's a very popular trip through beautiful country," Priscilla said.

For information on the coastal steamer trips, write the Bergen Line, 505 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10017, or call (212) 986-2711 or (800) 322-7436. For travel information on Norway, write the Norwegian Tourist Board, 655 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017, or call (212) 949-2333.

The author of this story, Mary Augusta Rodgers, is a resident of Birmingham.

America's Cup means dough for San Diego.

(AP) — The 1992 America's Cup, which will be sailed off Point Loma, is expected to bring more than \$900 million into San Diego County, according to a recent study.

America's Cup competitors, spectators and media will spend \$405 million in the county, according to a study conducted by a group of economists from the University of San Diego.

"This consists of approximately \$275 million in visitor spending, \$80 million by race syndicates, \$40 million for boat excursions, galas and parties, and \$10 million in direct construction spending," according to the study done for the America's Cup Organizing Committee.

In addition, the event will generate \$506 million in "induced spending," which takes into account the money San Diego businesses and workers are likely to spend because they will be enriched by the visitor spending, the study says.

In all, the county stands to realize a \$911 million windfall by hosting the yacht races, the study says.

The new figure is conservative when compared to a 1987 study prepared by San Diego-based CFC Research, which estimated the event's potential economic impact at \$1.2 billion.

The championship round of the America's Cup defense is scheduled for May 1992, with challenger and

'I wanted a bulletproof economic study that nobody could point a finger at and say, 'This was blown out of proportion''

— Tom Elman, general manager San Diego America's Cup Organizing Committee

defender trials starting in January of that year. Many of the international competitors will start setting up shop in San Diego later this year to prepare for the regatta.

According to the study, the city of San Diego can expect to receive about \$11 million in sales tax and hotel room-tax revenue from the 1992 America's Cup, while California may receive as much as \$21 million in state sales tax revenue.

Tom Elman, general manager of the San Diego America's Cup Organizing Committee, said his organization provided \$10,000 to help finance the USD study.

Elman said the new projections were conservative. "I wanted a bulletproof economic study that nobody could point a finger at and say, 'This was blown out of proportion,'" he said.

travel notes

MUSEUM NEWS

The 31-year-old National Art Museum of Sport (NAMOS), which boasts the largest collection of sports-related art in the U.S., is relocating its collections from New Haven, Conn., to Indianapolis, Ind. The museum opens Jan. 13, 1991. The inaugural exhibition, "Sport in Art from America's Museums: The Director's Choice," is a compilation of art from more than 50 major U.S. museums.

See what our future scientists have in store for us by visiting the Studebaker National Museum, 525 S. Main Street in downtown South Bend, Ind., which is hosting "X-90," an experimental hands-on science and technology exhibit created with

the cooperation of the South Bend Community School Corp., through April 7, 1991.

X-90 science exhibits are based on the scientific concepts found in the sixth-grade science curriculum and seventh-grade technology curriculum. The exhibit includes more than 50 experiments about energy, matter, gravity and friction.

Accompanying the X-90 exhibit is the Polarization Zoo's "Animals Can — Can You?" exhibit along with health and safety exhibits. Museum hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 4:30 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$3.50 for adults, \$2.50 for senior citizens and students, \$1.50 for kids 12 and under.

STEAMBOATIN'

The Mississippi Queen begins her 1991 steamship season in February with a series of big band vacations. Big name bands which will perform aboard the world's largest paddle wheeler include Les Elgart and His Orchestra, The Sammy Kaye Or-

chestra, Jack Morgan and The Russ Morgan Orchestra, and Guy Lombardo's Royal Canadians with Al Piersa.

All February departures are New Orleans-to-New Orleans river cruises, beginning Feb. 4, 1991. There are three, five, six- and seven-night big band river cruises. Fares start at \$450 per person for three nights, based on double occupancy. For more information, contact your travel agent or call 800-543-1949.

BED AND BREAKFAST

The Bed and Breakfast Inns of Northern California are holding their eighth annual conference, "Along the Inside Track," in Sacramento, Calif., Jan. 19-22, 1991. The conference will feature workshops and lectures on operations, management and promotion of bed and breakfast inns.

A pre-conference seminar, "Get In and Get Going," is planned for newcomers to the bed and breakfast industry. This two-day seminar gives future innkeepers a comprehensive

overview of innkeeping with a how-to approach. For more information, call Nancy Carlisle at 408-462-9191.

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES' FUN FARES

If holiday spending has made you reconsider your new year travel plans, you'll be pleased to learn that Southwest Airlines is offering discounted air fares starting at \$20 one-way with 21-day advance ticket purchase.

The \$20 one-way fares are valid from Detroit city or metro airports to Chicago, St. Louis and Indianapolis. Other discounted fares include Detroit city or metro airports to Houston, Dallas, Austin or San Antonio, Tex., for \$79. Tickets must be purchased 21 days in advance; airport fuel surcharges may apply. Call Southwest Airlines at 800-531-5601.

SNOW FUN

The Northern Michigan GMC Truck and Northern Michigan Buick Dealers associations present the 15th Annual Perry Drug White Pine

Stampede, sponsored by Perry Drug Stores, Feb. 2, 1991. The Michigan Cup Race will be held at Shanty Creek/Seuss Mountain Resorts near Bellaire, Mich., 35 miles from Traverse City.

More than 1,200 skiers are expected to participate this year in the 50K, 20K and 10K Fun Race cross country events. Proceeds of the day's activities will go to Children's Hospital of Michigan. For more information and registration details call race headquarters at 616-587-8812 or visit your local Perry Drug photo center.

If you're a new skier who needs to learn the basics or an experienced skier who needs to brush up on technique, the Northern Michigan Nordic Ski Council (NMNSC) will waive

trail fees and offer free technique clinics next Sunday.

To get your free trail pass, call NMNSC at 616-271-6314 for the 15 participating ski facilities. You must register by tomorrow.

FCA TO CELEBRATE SILVER ANNIVERSARY
The Finnish Center Association will celebrate its 25th anniversary beginning with a commemorative banquet Saturday, Feb. 23, 1991, at the center, 35502 Eight Mile Rd., Farmington Hills. Reservations required.

The celebration continues Sunday, Feb. 24 with an open house at the Finnish Center, 2 to 4 p.m. For more information contact Ruth Koskinen, chairman, 25th Anniversary Committee 313-478-6939.

Ski resorts adding new stuff for skiers

Continued from previous page.

lift serving intermediate and advanced, increased snowmaking capacity by 25 percent, upgraded rentals and frozen prices at last season's levels. Snowboarding has also been added Sundays through Fridays (excluding holidays). Call toll-free (800) 582-7256.

Ski Mt. Brighton and your kids aged 6 and under ski free any day of the week. Improvements at Mt. Brighton include a 500-foot-long halfpipe, twice as long, steeper and wider than last season, a third race course, and increased snowmaking capacity. Mt. Brighton's "Believers" learn-to-ski club will also be of interest to first-time skiers and families. Call (313) 229-9581 or the 24-hour recorded snow-conditions number, (313) 227-1451.

Alpine Valley, near Milford, has expanded its snowmaking capacity and widened two expert and three intermediate runs. A free beginner's ticket is offered on non-holiday weekdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call (313) 887-4183.

Dates to remember:

Friday, Jan. 18 is Learn to Downhill Ski Free day in Michigan. If you've never skied, or consider yourself a beginner, sign up for free lessons and beginner-area lift tickets from one of 30 participating ski facilities, including Mt. Brighton (313) 229-9581 and Riverview Highlands (313) 479-2266. Call before Jan. 17 to pre-register. Call the Michigan Travel Bureau at (800) 542-YDS for more information on participating ski facilities.

Free skiing for anyone 55 and over during "Silver Streak Week," Jan. 28 — Feb. 1. Downhill and cross-country skiing free at 46 participating ski facilities. Call the Michigan Travel Bureau at (800) 542-YDS for information on participating ski areas.

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Phone 538-4884 or 573-2523

Birmingham T/Ms- 2nd & 4th Tues. 6:30 p.m., COMMUNITY HOUSE, 280 S. Bates, Birmingham. Windbaggers: Every Thur. 6:30 p.m., SVEDEN HOUSE, 31630 Grand River, Farmington. Federal Mogul T/Ms- 2nd & 4th Thur. 12 noon, 26555 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield. NCA Voices/Excellence: 2nd & 4th Tues., 5:00 p.m., 17330 Northland Park Ct., Southfield. Lawrence Tech U.: Every Thur. 6:00 p.m., 21000 W. 10 Mile, #E-159, Southfield. Northwestern: Every Mon. 6:30 p.m., FRANKLIN CLUB Apts Library, 20830 Franklin, Southfield.

REDFORD, WESTLAND, WAYNE

Phone 561-8853 or 455-1635

Dearborn Dynamics: Every Tue. 6:30 p.m., RAMS HORN, Plymouth & Telegraph Rds., Redford. Holy Smokemasters: Every Thur. 6:30 p.m., DENNY'S, 7725 N. Wayne Rd. Westland. The Advocates: Every Thur. 6:00 p.m., OMEGA, 34824 Michigan Ave., Wayne.

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Jewish Community Center: Every Tue. 7:30 p.m., 6600 W. Maple Rd., West Bloomfield. Huron Valley: Every Mon. 6:30 p.m., MICHIGAN LEAGUE, 227A Engals (N. Univ.), Ann Arbor. Washlenaw: Every Thur. 7:00 p.m., DENNY'S-3310 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor. Dominos Farms: Every Wed. 6:00 p.m., 30 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr., Ann Arbor.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact

A.I. Moore ATM 422-8364, B. Boylan ATM 538-4884, D. Renaud ATM 494-2893

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