

TRAVEL

MONDAY, MAY 20, 1991

PAGE 6C



IRIS SANDERSON JONES

To celebrate 25th
they want tropical

Sharon and Lawrence Churchfield will celebrate a quarter century of married life next fall, and they would like to do it in a nice warm place.

"We would like to take a trip somewhere different, possibly tropical. We have been to Hawaii. I am a little reluctant to go someplace tropical because of monsoons. Do you have any suggestions?"

The word "monsoons" startled me, because I associate it with childhood stories about the mysterious east. I looked the word up in my dictionary and read "the seasonal wind of the Indian Ocean and southern Asia, blowing from the southwest in summer and the northeast in winter."

Another definition was "any persistent wind established between water and adjoining land."

Look at it from that point of view and you get the word "storm" which quickly leads you to "hurricane," a very scary word indeed. Surprisingly, very few travelers are ever caught in hurricanes, no matter how much their stormy paths dominate the evening news.

Some cruise ship lines will refund your money if you have the bad luck to sail during a storm. I talk to a lot of travelers, but only one or two have ever complained about bad weather in the Caribbean.

Where should you go?

My favorite island discovery of the last year is St. Lucia, a mountainous life in the eastern Caribbean where you can stay at a variety of resorts and enjoy sand, sea, sun and too much good food. Definitely not for those who like casinos and evening entertainment.

My favorite place in Mexico is San Miguel de Allende, northwest of Mexico City. This was once the heart of Spanish colonial Mexico. You can stay in an old Spanish mansion converted into a small luxury hotel. You can shop, eat and tour the surrounding area. You cannot stretch out on the beach, no beach.

Your destination will depend a lot on what you enjoy, what you mean by "somewhere different." If you go early in October, and want to go that far, you will find something different on the Balearic Islands of Mallorca and Ibiza off the coast of Spain. That is where Europeans go in the fall.

I suggest you spend some time in your library and at a travel agency. Check out Margaret Zeller's guide book on the Caribbean. Her observations are very personal and reliable. Use the Reader's Guide to Periodicals or just browse through past magazines like Conde Nast Traveler and Travel & Leisure. Pick up handbills of brochures at a travel agency.

Half the fun of travel is exploring the possibilities. When you have narrowed your choices down, write to me again and we'll refine your itinerary. Meantime, we invite other readers to send us their suggestions for a tropical celebration of a 25th anniversary.

One-armed bandit
pays local woman

By Denise Baha
special writer

It was three o'clock in the morning on the first day of her Las Vegas trip when Sue Leja of Millford saw the flashing lights on her slot machine. She had been playing the machines all night, so she almost didn't put that last quarter in the slot.

"The slot machine started flashing, blinking and beeping," she said. When the excitement was over, Sue had won \$2,500.

"The crowd looked on with envy. The security guard rushed over to inspect the machine. The next thing I knew, I had \$2,500 cash in my hand. The guard walked me to a safety deposit box in our hotel."

Sue has visited Las Vegas before and learned that the only way to come home ahead is to budget your gambling money.

"Decide how much money to take each night and don't stray from that amount," she said. "I budget \$100 a day."

"We like to go casino hopping. My favorites are the smaller casinos such as Barbary Coast and O'Shea's. We like to gamble from around noon to six or seven o'clock in the morning. The casinos are less crowded in the middle of the night."

"One advantage to playing the casinos is you drink free, but this can be dangerous as it is easy to spend money after a few drinks."

Sue likes to play the crap tables to build up her money. "I think that your money lasts longer at the crap tables."

"Then I usually head for the slot machines, which are my favorite. Beware though, it is easy to go through a lot of money at the slot machines."

Sue stayed at the Imperial Palace, "very clean and inexpensive."

Please turn to Page 5



Cottages like this one are very popular at Maumee Bay Lodge in Ohio on the shore of Lake Erie. They're so popular that all of them are reserved for the rest of 1991.

Ohio offers
a nearby
retreat **Maumee
Bay Lodge**

By Iris Sanderson Jones
special writer

MAUMEE BAY Lodge, Ohio's 10th state park resort, opened May 1 on the shore of Lake Erie 15 miles east of Toledo in Oregon. It has been getting rave reviews.

The lodge is a great close-to-home getaway for Michigan travelers, with fine resort facilities available at moderate prices. But you will have to book early to get what you want.

The 120 lodge rooms are available all year, but 20 cottages that rent only by the week during summer are already fully booked from Memorial Day to Labor Day, although cancellations are always possible.

The cottages were rented within three hours after

reservations became available in January. The park will begin taking cottage reservations for 1992 on June 1.

YOU REACH Maumee Bay by the Highway 2 exit of I-280. Drive through the town of Oregon and turn left between farmhouses on Maumee Bay Park Road. Campers have used the adjacent campsites at Maumee Bay State Park for several years.

Maumee Bay Lodge appears ahead of you, a contemporary sprawl of sawed planks, stained fawn grey, rising in the center to weathered cedar-shingled roofs. The lodge, low on the ends and high in the middle, is set against the shore of Lake Erie, but you need not limit yourself to the sand beach (to be completed by July 4).



IRIS SANDERSON JONES

This is the clubhouse at Maumee Bay Lodge, a new state park resort in Oregon, Ohio.

or to the 1,500 feet of inland beach on the 57-acre sailing lake.

The lodge includes a large outdoor swimming pool, a heated indoor swimming pool with saunas; courts for racquetball, basketball and tennis; and a fitness center. All are available free to guests.

If you look to the right as you approach the lodge, you see contemporary cottages in the same grey planks, scattered in singles and doubles across the slightly rolling prairie landscape, tucked into groves of trees.

Most cottages are set on widely-separated knolls beside the golf course, which looks ready for play but is still digging its grass roots into the ground for a fall opening.

Please turn to Page 5

Sea World opens in Ohio

By Iris Sanderson Jones
special writer

Sea World opened its summer season Saturday in Aurora, Ohio, near Cleveland. Shamu and Namu are back, but don't be surprised if they don't answer when you call them by name. Shamu and Namu are character names; this year's killer whales are new.

Sea World has been breeding whales for years and now has a pod of 13. When they have played around in Sea World pools long enough, they are put into the breeding program.

This year's "characters" are two females, 2½ years old, born at Sea World parks in Texas and Florida, and they met for the first time three weeks ago. Shamu and Namu, and their friends the bottlenosed dolphins, are doing a new show in a renovated stadium this season.

The International High Dive Show is new this year. So is the Pirates of Pinniped, featuring a comical sea lion duo called Clyde and Seamore. You'll also find old favorites like the Penguin Encounter and the World of the Sea Aquarium.

Tickets are \$18.50 if you're more than 12, \$14.50 ages 3-11, children under 3 free. Season passes are roughly double those one-day prices, so they're worth considering if you plan to go

more than once. Parking is free.

Sea World opens daily at 10 a.m. For information, call toll-free (800) 63-SHAMU.

OCEANS OF FUN in Kansas City opens May 25 with a new attraction called Crocodile Isle, a "sprayground" with a 2,000 square-foot kiddie pool, three water slides and other attractions, floating gators and hippos among them.

Crossroads Village and Huckleberry Railroad in Flint is open and bragging because AAA Michigan named it one of the top five family attractions in Michigan.

A rare 1910 Ferris wheel has been added to the Village this year, a nice companion for the 1912 Parker Carousel. The village also opened a 7,000 square-foot multi-purpose building, designed like a vintage railroad warehouse, to give better food and other services to groups.

The 50-foot 1910 Charles W. Parker "Superior Wheel" is the last remaining Ferris wheel of its type and had a colorful history before the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission bought it last year. It ran in two Pennsylvania amusement parks and was once owned by a fire



Visitors to Sea World in Ohio this year can see amazing feats of daring like that performed by this inverted water skier.

Please turn to Page 4