

TRAVEL

O&E Monday, November 11, 1991

4B** (4C*)



crossroads
Iris Jones

Show gets skiers ready for sport in snow time

Alpine, Blue Sky, Boyne, Grand Traverse, Jackson Hole, Killington. If you don't know the subject of this column, you have never zoomed down a ski slope humming "he'll be coming around the mountain when she comes."

Those are just a few of the names on the list of exhibitors in the 1991 Detroit Ski Show, to be Nov. 15 to 17 at the Ladbroke DRC at I-96 and Middlebelt in Livonia.

Mount Brighton, Mount Holly, Pine Knob, Nubs Nob, Searchmont, Shanty Creek-Schuss, Sugar Loaf. You get the picture.

I've just come home from the Caribbean, and I still have sand between my toes, so I am having a little trouble getting used to this idea of SNOW.

Excuse me. The telephone is ringing. Barry Godwin of Shant Creek-Schuss Mountain. Just called to tell me that they opened their ski slopes this past weekend, the earliest they have ever opened them in history.

"We had 8 to 10 inches of natural snow, and we had started making snow a week before, so we opened early," he crowed. Don't tell me he didn't crow. I know an exultant voice when I hear one.

For those of you, like Lou Otis, who are panting to get on the slopes, the Detroit Ski Show is for you. Lou likes to start early, so he goes east to ski for Thanksgiving, skis in Michigan every weekend and goes west whenever he can. Now that's dedication.

The ski show will give him, and you, access to ski resorts and facilities from across the country—American Ski Association, Boyne Country, Colorado Ski Country, National Ski Association, Ski Banff/Lake Louise, Ski New England, Ski Utah, Wilderness Lodging.

It will showcase airlines like American Airlines and Midway, tour operators like Colorado Ski Tours, Great Expectations, Linn Ski Tours.

The highlights will be at the Freestyle Sports Ski Deck and Trampoline Show, hosted by former freestyle Olympic team member Bruce Boleyn and including performances by Olympic and world class skiers Chris Sernan, Ellen Breen and Kris Feddersen.

Hours are 6-11 p.m. Friday, noon to 10 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$6 for adults. Check coupons offering \$1 off in newspaper ads.

I assume that all you skiers will be there, and that you will do a little homework for our Winter Page, coming up Nov. 25. We're going to let you write this page, so send me a postcard or a one-page letter telling me where you like to ski and why.

Where do you ski in Michigan? Do you ever go to Canada or New England? When you go west, what's your favorite slope? Do you have tips that will help your favorite skiers save money?

Send your tips immediately, and we will continue to run them through the rest of the year.

It's better in Bahamas with natives

By Iris Sanderson Jones
special writer

The photograph shows Annis and Emma on the beach in Eleuthera, Bahamas, but it only tells part of the story of my day with the People-to-People Program in the village of Savannah Sound.

It doesn't show the children in their white dresses waiting for me at the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, the crawfish served in the small hilt painted house or the moment when I was introduced to the oldest woman in town.

I was the first traveler hosted by the people of Savannah Sound, but more than 1,400 Bahamians have hosted visitors for a day or an evening since the People-to-People program started 12 years ago in Nassau and Grand Bahama Island. It has only recently spread to the family islands, as the other Bahamian islands are called.

A single road, which locals call The Street, runs the 110-mile length of the family island of Eleuthera; the island is less than one mile wide so the road gives alternating views of the Atlantic Ocean on one side and the Caribbean Sea on the other. The people of Savannah Sound live on both beaches.

My hosts Annis Bullard and Emma Sands picked me up in Governor's Harbor, in the center of the island, in time for the morning service at the Bethel AME Church. The last Sunday of every month is Youth Day, so a cluster of young people with scrubbed black faces waited outside the church door: young girls with beaded hair and white frilly dresses, older girls in green, boys in white Sunday shirts.

About 30 parishioners rose in the small church when the youth came clapping and singing up the red carpeted aisle to the raised platform that held the altar and the choir loft. They rocked from side to side singing "He has done great things for me!"

Emma's daughter Mary started the service, although three dignitaries sat behind the altar: the Rev. Daniel Scott, presiding elder from Nassau; Commissioner Harrison Thompson, chief government officer of central Eleuthera; and the Rev. Alexander Bethel.

You don't need an organ when senior choirmaster Vernal Gibson is in church. When Mary announced the hymn, Vernal's voice rose from the pew behind me. "I am so glad that our father in heaven..." Annis and Emma picked it up in resounding voices and the rest followed.

I turned my head and saw several tiny children in pink Sunday dresses asleep on the second pew or watching the service while the fans blew the wildflowers piled in front of the altar.

"Hymn 461." Vernal's voice began. The congregation rose and moved, singing, from one pew to another, shaking hands and hugging in the spirit of the Lord.

Thompson's sermon raised the roof and set the congregation rocking and stamping and shouting. The prodigal son has never had such a storyteller.

"I HAVE COME TO TELL YOU..."

"Yes, Yes!"

"I HAVE COME TO TELL YOU ABOUT GOING HOME TO THE FATHER..."

"Amen!" "Amen!"

When the service ended, Scott and I were invited back to Annis' house for lunch. Only two places were set at



Above, the youth choir performs at Bethel AME Church in Savannah Sound, Eleuthera, Bahamas. Below, Annis Bullard walks along the beach in Savannah Sound.

the table. While we ate crawfish and grouper and macaroni and rice and other tasty island foods, Annis and Emma sat a few feet away in the living room. I protested, uncomfortable, but the two women just smiled.

"These two ladies are used to serving others," Scott said. "They are both chefs at the Windermere Club. Emma served Prince Charles before he was married."

After lunch we drove past the houses in the Windermere Club where the British royal family stays in Eleuthera. Emma and Annis told stories about Prince Charles and Princess Di. They had the same pride in their voices when they stopped beside the road to introduce me to Lillian Culmer, the oldest lady in Savannah Sound.

Is People-to-People always like this? I have heard stories about families sharing dinners in Nassau and other stories about guests who sat alone while their hosts cooked behind closed doors in the kitchen. I highly recommend that you try it, however. It is a great way to experience the world.

You can take part in the People-to-People Program by filling out a questionnaire at your hotel or by contacting the Bahamas Tourist Office in the Bahamas, or telephone the midwest Bahamas Tourist Office toll-free (800) 422 4262 for information.



NAPLES, FLORIDA
Condo Rentals
1-2-3 Bedrooms
Weekly/Monthly
Beach front available
Call toll free:
1-800-331-4941
Resorts Marketing

LAS VEGAS SALE
Hotel pkg. available
STARDUST TOWERS
DUNES - IMPERIAL
Nov. 15, 17, 18, 24 & 25
\$289.90
\$159.90 FROM R.T.
Non-retroactive
Limited Space Available While Seats Last
CALL YOUR TRAVEL AGENT OR
HAMILTON, MILLER, HUDSON & FAYNE (313) 827-4070

New Location **DETROIT SKI SHOW**
LADBROKE DETROIT RACE COURSE (DRC)
I-96 at Middlebelt Road • Livonia, Michigan
November 15-17, 1991



SPECIAL FEATURES PLANNED FOR ALL THREE DAYS!

The Revolving Ski Deck & Trampoline Show brings the excitement of freestyle skiing indoors. Stop in at the Super Sale for terrific deals on ski equipment, clothing and accessories. Check out the Rollerblade Demo Area. Put those in-lines on and try them out! Pro Talks, hosted by professional ski instructors, cover a wide range of skiing topics and the Equipment Center features leading manufacturers of skis, boots, bindings and poles. Preview the season's latest fashions in the Mountain Highlights Fashion Review with styles from Descente, Head Sports Wear, CB Sports, Roffe/Demetre and Sport Obermeyer. And, don't forget to sign up to WIN an exciting ski trip for two on American Airlines to VAIL!

AA

*Hours: Fri. 6-11 p.m., Sat. Noon-10 p.m., Sun. Noon-6 p.m. Admission: \$6 adults, \$2 children (6-12)

Be **EnergyWise**

Sea the World

Warm up to a cruise this winter that won't leave your wallet cold. All we do is Cruises.

Only By Sea
645-9900



Stay on your own private island in the heart of Chicago.

The Omni Ambassador East offers you an elegant, romantic haven for your special weekend in Chicago. Nestled in a neighborhood of tree-lined streets and historic homes, it's just steps away from the exotic shops of Oak Street, night clubs, theaters and the magnificent stores of North Michigan Avenue. You don't have to leave the hotel to dine in the legendary magic of the Pump Room. Call us for a very special weekend.

1-(312)-787-7200 or 1-(800)-THE OMNI

\$69

\$69 per night, double occupancy, Friday and Saturday, based on availability. Tips and taxes not included. Not applicable to groups.

OMNI AMBASSADOR EAST
1301 North State Parkway, Chicago, Illinois 60610

HOTEL EXPRESS

SAVE 50% AT MAJOR HOTELS NATIONWIDE

Now you too can save 50% at Days Inn, Best Western, Marriott, Sheraton and Hilton Hotels, just to name a few. Just one night stay more than pays for your HOTEL EXPRESS membership. We offer you 50% discounts at over 2,000 hotels and motels in over 400 cities in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Membership is only \$49.95. HOTEL EXPRESS is the best travel bargain in America.

TO ORDER CALL
1-800-666-7237, x480