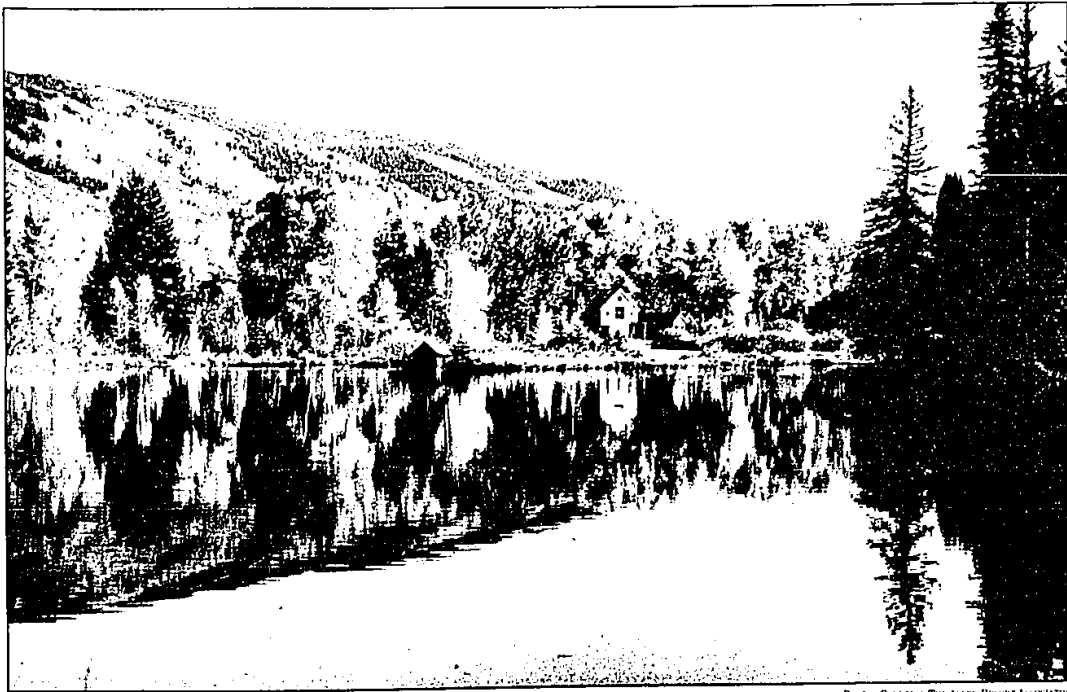


TRAVEL



Sanctuary: Hallam Lake, in the heart of Aspen, is the site of the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies.

PHOTO COURTESY THE ASPEN RESORT ASSOCIATION

BY DYAN ZASLOWSKY
NEW YORK TIMES SYNDICATE

Somewhere summer is the best season to observe Aspen functioning as a wholesome little town, not just as a resort driven by skiing.

People do simple, free things: Residents hike to and from work, they play in the parks and older children safely roam the pedestrian mall on their own. So much of what happens in summer occurs beneath one tent or another, but the performances and lectures account for only a portion of Aspen's magnetism.

Along with the town's brimming art and cultural fare, it is Aspen's unimpaired outdoor beauty that draws ever more devotees.

Few vistas are as gratifying or as easy to reach as the one at the end of the short bus trip from Aspen's Huley Park Transport Center to Mountain Lake.

From the lake one can tackle a number of hikes of varying difficulty into the back country. Meanwhile, it seems mountain and road biking threaten to overtake hiking in popularity.

After so much daytime exertion, therefore, it is a wonder anyone has the energy to attend a dance concert, a free lecture at the Aspen Institute, a performance at the venerable Aspen Music Festival or any of the many other entertainments.

Yet they do, although the evening jazz shows imperceptibly as the night air cools. After dinner and a concert, the day's last activity is often a gentle mall crawl on Hymn Avenue.

Street performers abound and the sidewalks are full of people well into the night. Some shops stay

open until 10 p.m. or later — the collegial Explorers Bookellers and Coffeehouse at 231 E. Main St. is open until midnight in summer and abuzz with browsers.

Dance, music and theater

After 22 summers of performing in the Aspen High School Gymnasium, the DanceAspen festival now commands a state-of-the-art stage in a handsome new 548-seat auditorium at the Aspen Elementary School, a space designed to accommodate any visiting dance troupe.

DanceAspen features seven companies at its new location. Miami City Ballet will perform on Aug. 10, Hubbard Street Dance Company on Aug. 13. Tickets for the festival which will run through Aug. 22, cost from \$5 for matinees to \$30 for evening performances. Tickets can be ordered by phone (800-933-3820), or in writing to DanceAspen, P.O. Box 8745, Aspen, Colo. 81612.

The Aspen Music Festival, in its 44th year, will run to Aug. 23. More than 130 events are presented every summer, including orchestral, chamber, opera, choral, jazz and master classes.

Dichter will perform on Aug. 13. The season closes with a Beethoven Bash. Tickets from \$5 to \$35. Schedule and tickets: Aspen Music Festival, Ticket Sales, P.O. Box AA, Aspen, Colo. 81612; (303) 925-9042.

A bus costing \$2 each way leaves from Rubeys Park to Snowmass Village 10 miles away where the Anderson Ranch, an artists' colony that holds gallery exhibitions, is worth visiting. The Anderson Ranch Arts Center Annual Art Auction is Aug. 15; (303) 923-3181.

Summer in Aspen

It's not just for skiing anymore

The Aspen Theatre in the Park performs "Crimes of the Heart," "Burn This" and "The Singular Dorothy Parker" in a tent behind the Aspen Art Museum. Up to four performances a week will be held until Sept. 13.

Tickets cost \$15 or \$17. Call (303) 925-2750 for tickets, or write Aspen Theatre in the Park, P.O. Box 8677, Aspen, Colo. 81612.

Aerobic touring

Mountain biking is a particularly aerobic way to see the country. Bikes can be rented at Timberline Cycle Center below the gondola; The Hub of Aspen, 315 East Hyman Ave.; Blazing Pedals by the Mill Street Fountain and several other bicycle shops. Rates are about \$10 and up for road or mountain

bikes for a half day; weekly rates are available.

It is an easy half-day trip by paved road from Ashcroft or along Owl Creek Road, while Aspen Mountain's rugged trails are for the advanced rider only; carrying the bike over certain stretches is not unheard of on the most difficult trails.

Another excursion is fly-fishing for trout on the Roaring Fork River. Oxbow Outfitting Co., P.O. Box D3, Aspen, Colo. 81612 (303-925-1505), offers fly-fishing clinics every Tuesday from 5 to 7, rents equipment and offers guided fly-fishing trips. A half-day trip for one with all gear costs \$150.

Hallam Lake is in a 22-acre wildlife sanctuary in the heart of Aspen, close enough for small children to walk to. Call (303) 925-5766 for information about programs for children and adults. Programs cost up to \$3.



Making music: Musicians from the Aspen Music Festival perform for onlookers at Aspen's downtown mall.

Stockholm shop caters to beer buffs

BY EVERETT POTTER
SPECIAL WRITER

In Stockholm a glass of beer is relatively expensive. It costs about \$3. A more economical activity for beer lovers may be a trip to the shop called Ol Kompaniet.

This small, well-designed space — around the corner from the Royal Dramatic Theater — specializes in beer-themed products.

That includes beer glasses from about 200 of the world's most famous and obscure breweries.

There are also beer-themed place mats, postcards, bottle openers and posters — as well as all the ingredients for making home-brewed beer.

"Beer has become more popular than ever," said Maria Nordlof, co-owner of the shop.

"It's cheaper for us than alcohol and wine. And Swedes have traveled abroad and sampled beers everywhere. Especially women. Over half of our customers are women, buying things for themselves or for their husbands or boyfriends."

"You know it's always difficult to buy for a man. But beer things — they love them."

Nordlof opened the shop in November 1990 with her cousin Peter Nordlof. The reason was simple:

"I like beer," Nordlof says, as she samples a new non-alcoholic beer sent by a local brewer.

But in this shop a traveler soon learns all beer glasses are not the same. Some are tall and graceful, others short and fat. Some must be held in two hands; the delicate, fine

crystal ones can be pinched in two fingers.

Most of the glasses carry a specific brewery's name and logo.

"It's not been easy to acquire these glasses. Pubs get them for free, but they are rarely sold to anyone," says Nordlof about brewers' customs for selling their glasses to the public.

Ol Kompaniet has exquisite hand-blown "bryggarglas," which are manufactured by the famed Swedish glassmaker Rejmyre. These are used in the Opera Bar, Stockholm's choice night spot. They sell for about \$40 each.

The store also sells glasses from several breweries in Belgium: from the Lindemans Kriek brewery for about \$8.40 each, from Chimay for about \$14.50 each and from Duvel for about \$12.50 each.

There are Newcastle Brown Ale

glasses from England for about \$8.20 each, Samuel Adams glasses from America for about \$8.90 each, Murphy's Stout glasses from Ireland for about \$8.20 each.

"You should drink beer out of whatever kind of glass you like," says Nordlof, in an egalitarian spirit that is characteristic of beer drinkers.

"When I went to England and had my first glass of English beer in a standard English pint glass I thought, 'At last, I have found my real beer glass.'"

Indeed, Nordlof can barely keep pint glasses, priced at about \$5.30 each, in stock.

For further information contact Ol Kompaniet, Nybrogatan 3, Stockholm, Sweden, or call 011-046-8-611-26-83.

Suds shop:
Maria Nordlof, co-owner of Ol Kompaniet, greets collectors of beer glasses and beer-themed products.



EVERETT POTTER