

# Quest for adventure leads Nomads to tropical paradise

BY ETHEL SODOMONS  
STAFF WRITER

When the Nomads air travel club recently flew to Huatulco, Mexico, Delores and David Maylen of Lathrup Village were on their third trip to the golden Pacific Coast destination.

"The Huatulco Sheraton Resort is a tropical paradise, which we had visited three times with the Nomads," Delores said. The weeklong trip was the first of many that the Maylens have planned for 1995. It was their 193th adventure with the Nomads.

The Maylens have been members of the metropolitan-Detroit club for 30 years and each has flown more than 682,000 miles with the group. On the return flight from the recent trip, Delores declared, "The passenger handling, trip planning, destinations and friendliness have improved over the years to a point of near perfection. We travel frequently

on our own and are always glad to get back aboard our own personal 'clubhouse,' as we call our Boeing 727."

### Good sports

Dr. Ronald and Joyce Huey of Bloomfield Hills found time for golf, swimming, water polo and deep sea fishing during their stay at the Sheraton Huatulco Resort on the beach of Tanguanda Bay near Santa Cruz. "The fishing turned out to be great fun, as well as productive," Ronald said. "We brought back one of the Yellowtail tuna to the hotel for dinner. The chef did an outstanding job in its preparation. Although it weighed more than 10 pounds, it didn't last long when shared with our Nomad friends."

Playing the well-kept, 18-hole golf course near the hotel was fun for Bill and Marilyn Schmitt of West Bloomfield. Marilyn said the course was "long for women and difficult due to trees placed directly in line of the greens on some holes. A real challenge!" Boasting brought pleasure to

Don and Wilma Sackett of Birmingham. "We spent a day on a small yacht, touring the different bays of the area and watching the playful dolphins entertain us as we strolled through the water," Wilma said. The Sacketts even got a kick out of falling off a banana boat going about 30 miles per hour.

A different kind of boating experience was shared when "four of the older, experienced male Nomads elected to accept the challenge of the Banana Boat Ride," Ray Okonski of Farmington Hills recalled. They rode a four-by-10-foot-long rubber raft pulled by a 340 HP speedboat.

When the raft was hit by a four-foot wave, the Nomads spilled out and three men hoisted themselves aboard the speedboat. Okonski, however, decided to swim for shore — much to the delight of the waiting crowd that cheered him on.

Choosing an easier way to unwind were Joel and Alice Goldberg of West Bloomfield, who preferred sun, sand and lounging around the pool.

A chilly reminder of what everyone had gotten away from was brought to mind, on their return, by Marilyn Burkhardt of Plymouth, who said the trip had provided a "beautiful warm, sunny week on the beach. Sorry to come home to four-degree temperatures!"

The flight manifest for the Huatulco trip listed dozens of residents from Birmingham-Bloomfield, West Bloomfield, Troy, Southfield and Rochester. Other local communities represented were Farmington, Farmington Hills, Livonia and Plymouth. Area residents and part of the crew were flight attendants Linda Lambertsen and Margaret Silvester, both of Bloomfield Hills.

Organized in 1965, the Nomads is a nonprofit club that offers low flight costs, group hotel rates and a private terminal. Members travel throughout the Western Hemisphere, Europe and Hawaii aboard their own 146-passenger jet, The Nomad World Terminal, at Detroit Metropolitan Airport. For more information call (313) 941-8000.



Banana Boat adventure: Two of the men who were "survivors" of a wild ride aboard a rubber raft celebrate with their wives. The foursome is Connie (left) and John Conder of Northville and Suzanne and Ray Okonski of Farmington Hills.

## Program allows students to study abroad

Students and interested adults can study abroad this summer in Europe, Russia, Mexico and Japan on more than 20 college-level programs organized by the College Division of the American Institute for Foreign Study of Greenwich, Conn.

The American Institute for Foreign Study has arranged educational/cultural programs for more than 500,000 students, faculty and interested adults since 1964. For a free copy of the 1995 catalog of AIFS summer programs, write: AIFS College Division, Dept. P-10, 102 Greenwich Ave., Greenwich, Conn., 06830, or call (800)-727-2437.

The programs are detailed in the catalog. Summer programs are offered at major institutions in London, England; Paris and Cannes, France; Salamanca, Spain; Berlin, Germany; St. Petersburg, Russia; Florence, Italy; Prague, the Czech Republic; Merida, Mexico; and Shizuoka, Japan.

A variety of subjects are offered for academic credit including business, economics, communications, history, fine arts, politics and the performing arts at Richmond College in central London.

Spanish language, history and culture at the University of Salamanca in Spain, French language, arts and history at the University of Paris at the Sorbonne or the College International de Coques in France, German language, history and business at Richmond College in Berlin, Germany; Russian language, politics and culture at St. Petersburg State Technical University in Russia.

Spanish language, Mayan archaeology and anthropology, culture and history at the University of Yucatan in Mexico; Italian language, art, history and culture at Richmond College in Florence, Italy.

Intensive art, design and humanities at the Royal College of Art in London, theater and acting at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art or an internship placement through Richmond College, the American International University in London at a British or international business, media or communications company.

Two traveling lecture credit programs are sponsored by Richmond College: cumbins classes with visits to museums, corporations, monuments and institutions throughout Europe. The Single European Market: Implications for Finance and Culture in Western Europe takes students to London, Brussels, Paris, Lucerne, Strasbourg and Berlin for four weeks.

Students interested in European Art and Architecture spend four weeks traveling to London, Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris, Munich, Salzburg, Venice, Florence and Rome.

AIFS summer study programs generally last from three to 12 weeks. Fees include round trip air fare, tuition, accommodations, most meals and insurance. Optional excursions to other cities and sights are arranged at an additional fee. Fees range from \$2,639 for three weeks at Richmond College in London to \$4,939 for eight weeks at the University of Paris, Sorbonne. Places are guaranteed when participants enroll by March 15 and pay in full by April 15, 1995.

## Jaguar! roars into Knott's Berry Farm

Jaguar, a ferocious new family roller coaster adventure and one of 1995's most anticipated new amusement park attractions, streaks into Knott's Berry Farm in summer 1995 as the focal point of Southern California theme park's 75th Anniversary Celebration. For more information, call 714-220-5200 or (714) 827-1776.

The new ride joins new spring and summer shows, fireworks displays, special events and promotions honoring the 75th anniversary of the founding of the original Knott Family Farm in 1920.

America's first theme park, Knott's is the most popular independent amusement park in the United States and the last top-10 park still owned and operated by a family. Knott's first new coaster in five years, Jaguar! is the park's first totally themed roller coaster adventure. The 2700-ft. long, European-crafted steel thriller will wind its way above one-sixth of Knott's total land area. Its swerving, circling track will propel passengers into an intense, three-minute-plus serial journey.

Adventure-seekers first enter the Temple of the Jaguar, a mysterious five-story Mayan pyramid, to board sleek, 24-passenger trains. From there, they embark on a twisting, route around the park's existing attractions — coming within inches of the Timber Mountain Log Ride and "threading the needle" of the 78-foot-high loop of the park's Mon-

stazooma's Revenge roller coaster in the process.

Knott's new Jaguar! attraction is part of a themed expansion of the park's Fiesta Village. The Temple stands in a colorful plaza with an interactive Adventure Fountain. In addition to Jaguar! (SM), a number of shows and special events promise to make 1995 a banner year. "The Siege of Fort Knott Stunt Extravaganza" — Knott's first new permanent stunt show in 17 years — premieres in April in Knott's newly remodeled Wagon Camp Theater.

April 8-23, Knott's premieres Easter Egg Hunt, a hands-on family celebration featuring a series of elaborately themed adventures.

including The Search for the Easter Beagle and Dinosaur EggVenture. Come summer, Knott's Diamond Jubilee reaches fever pitch with special in-park 75th Anniversary decorations and festivities, including the nightly "75th Anniversary Fireworks Spectacular" and a big-stage summer production in the 2,100-seat Chevrolet/Gee Good Time Theatre. Knott's 75th Anniversary Celebration concludes July 29 during Diamond Jubilee Days, featuring a number of in-park surprises. Located 10 minutes from Disneyland, Knott's is open every day except Christmas. From June 16 through Sept. 3, the park is open from 9 a.m. to midnight daily.

viewers will see cowboys, roping and riding Hawaiian style. The film will also travel to Kauai, the Garden Isle, where viewers will explore Waimea Canyon and the Na Pali sea cliffs, 4,000 feet above the pounding surf.

## World travel series features Hawaii

Escape to the islands of Hawaii with the Cultural Arts Division of the City of Southfield and cinematographer John Holod 7:30 p.m. Fri., March 17. The film, "Hawaii — Wild and Beautiful" will be presented in the City Council Chambers as part of the

World Travel & Adventure Series. For more information, call (810) 354-4717.

Let Holod, an island resident, show you the side of Hawaii tourists rarely see. From sunrise over Haleakala Crater on Maui to Vol-

cano National Park on the big island of Hawaii where you will witness the devastating effects of burning lava on the big island and its people.

All six of the islands will be visited including Maui, where

## St. Patrick's Day celebrations, customs

Faith and begorrah! Once celebrated only by those boasting true Irish ancestry, today, St. Patrick's Day enjoys widespread popularity. The following trends, customs and legends are cited by American Greetings:

- Green parades — Green carnations, derby hats and parades will be the order of the day in more than 170 cities across the United States. New York City hosts the largest parade, often attracting more than 125,000 marchers.
- Home decorating — Decorating the home and yard is becoming increasingly popular for all holidays, and St. Patrick's Day is no exception. From shamrock flags on the front porch to leprechauns in the window, thousands of Americans will be "going green" on March 17.
- Irish greetings — The Greeting Card Association estimates 16 million St. Patrick's Day

cards will be exchanged in the United States this year.

- St. Patrick's Day in Ireland — In Ireland, St. Patrick's Day is not the exuberant occasion it is in the United States. There, it is primarily a religious holiday — the start of a three-day period of devotion. The day's events are culminated annually with a St. Patrick's Day Ball in Dublin Castle.
- The Irish patron saint — Born in Wales between 385 and 389 A.D., St. Patrick was kidnapped at age 16 and sold into slavery in Ireland. He escaped after six years and returned to his homeland, eventually returning to Ireland to share his Christian faith.
- The Legend of the shamrock — Legend has it that St. Patrick used a shamrock to explain the concept of the Trinity to his converts. The shamrock leaves represent the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, while the stem represents the Godhead itself.

## Children's series continues downtown at Civic Theatre

The new children's series in downtown Farmington at the Civic Theatre continues this Saturday with a musical performance. The "Winter Fun Series '95," is sponsored by the Downtown Development Authority and patterned after the "Summer Fun Series."

Performances are 2 p.m. Saturdays through April 8. Ticket sales begin at the theater on Grand River, just east of Farmington Road at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$2 per person. For more information, (810) 478-4735.

Programs are being largely underwritten by downtown merchants. Sponsors include Clothes

Encounters, Three Oaks Furniture, Baker Street Draperies, The Civic Theatre, Books Abound, and Focal Point Studios. Here's the schedule of performers.

- March 11 — Chautauque Express — Guy Louis draws from popular American music getting the audience actively involved in the performance.
- March 18 — The Amazing Jonathan — Juggling, sleight-of-hand & laughs keeps the audience entertained.
- March 25 — Brad Lowe Fantasy E-Pop Puppets — "The Frog in the Woods" presentation brings the fairy-tale "The Frog Prince to Life."

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- Home Buyers Clinic** seminars on financial, mortgage, legal, insurance, landscaping, natural gas appliances and products and remodeling sponsored by Observer & Eccentric
- Max Dog and Merril** outdoor cooking specialists display grilling techniques on March 19-25 sponsored by RichCoast Gas Company
- WYTT's Ask the Handyman** Gloria Hodge on March 18-19 & 23-25
- Home of Nails** and Treasure Chest cosmetics
- Friends of Notable Homes** featuring a pictorial display of new homes and free plan book sponsored by: Landscape Association and sponsored by: [Logos]
- Over 100 floral arrangements** and miniature indoor gardens complements of Professional Allied Florists Association members
- Seventeen Beautiful Gardens** a 15-foot cascading waterfall, a 400-foot long horseshoe-shaped river and a tropical rose in 96,000 square feet of gardens created by Metropolitan Detroit Garden Society. Tickets, including 2 adults and 10 for the children, \$9.99 available only at Pioneer Park

### OPENS SATURDAY MARCH 18

Monday through Friday	9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Sunday	11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.