

See skydivers and shop on a day trip to Tecumseh

BY THREEDBAGS
CORRESPONDENTS

A wise man once said, "Find something you are passionate about, then find a way to make money at it." No, Oprah did not think of it first. This is one of the secrets of a happy life.

Last week we traveled to Tecumseh, Michigan, and met a young man who is living his dream and earning a living while doing it. Ron Polowski is the proud owner of Skydive Tecumseh.

Just a short eight years ago, he began sky diving here as a student. In April he bought the company and just isn't quite smiling about it. He is one of the brave hearts who followed his dream and found his pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

Located just 25 miles southwest of Ann Arbor, it is a nice ride in the country to reach the Al Meyers Airport on the Tecumseh-Clinton Highway.

Skydive Tecumseh was at the end of a dirt road that wound its way around the few airport buildings on the property. We parked our car in the packed lot and noticed heads turned upward. So, of course we looked too. The clear blue sky was dotted with skydivers attached to brilliantly colored parachutes. We found it mesmerizing to watch them float through the sky, some twirling, others gliding softly to earth. All of them made a loud swooshing sound, as they came in with their parachutes flapping in the wind. What excitement!

Polowski was eager to show us his four Cessna planes and the newest acquisition, a leased Twin Otter that seats twenty-four passengers.

The airport was bustling with activity and we enjoyed interviewing two first-time jumpers, a brother and sister combo, Brad and Trisha Bogedain from Monroe, Michigan.

They were all geared up and ready to board the plane and do a tandem jump with one of the instructors. Trish admitted, "Okay, now I've got butterflies in my stomach!" Brad was pumped and raring to go.

ThreeOBags was glad to be staying on the ground to observe this one!

IF YOU GO

■ Skydive Tecumseh 9305 Tecumseh-Clinton Hwy. (517) 423-7720 Closed Mondays

Upcoming Events:

■ Nov. 3: Fall Color Tours, Southern Michigan Railroad. Call (517) 456-7677 for reservations

■ Nov. 2: The Toledo Symphony, Tecumseh Civic Auditorium

■ Nov. 16-17 Holiday Open House, downtown Tecumseh

■ Dec. 1: Holiday Concert, Tecumseh Civic Auditorium

■ Dec. 6: Christmas Parade, downtown Tecumseh

■ Dec. 7: Candlelight Holidays: An Italian Serenade (St. Peter's Episcopal Church) Presented by the Adrian Symphony Orchestra at 8:00 p.m.

Web Sites:
www.tecumseh.org - Tecumseh Chamber of Commerce
www.tecumsehcivic.com - Tecumseh Civic Auditorium

The Twin Otter goes up to 13,500 feet and lets out the skydivers one at a time. Freefall lasts about 50 seconds and the tandem jumpers open their chutes at 5000 feet. Floating downward is awesome with a spectacular view.

We met Brad and Trish as they touched ground. "Awesome! The adrenal rush can't be beat! I'd definitely do it again," said Brad. "The scariest part is when the door on the airplane opens and you feel the rush of air coming at you," said Trish. "But, it was a lot of fun!"

We had a hard time pulling ourselves away from all the excitement, but we still had to explore Tecumseh, so we drove



ThreeOBags met first-time jumpers who are brother and sister, Brad and Trisha Bogedain from Monroe, during a day trip to Tecumseh.

the other miles to town.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

ThreeOBags had heard about The British Pantry & Tea Garden Café so we decided to eat lunch here. The Tea Garden Café serves authentic English foods, like scones and crumpets, and Cottage Pie. Be sure to have their house salad, which features dried cherries, toasted pine nuts and Raspberry Maple Vinaigrette dressing. The Apple Slaw was delicious.

They are open for lunch and afternoon tea until 5 p.m. A nice assortment of patterned teapots with matching cups, accessories for tea drinkers and a large selection of specialty teas are sold at the British Pantry.

If you're looking for a cultural experience, be sure to stop by Evans Street Station, where a world-class chef will prepare a gourmet specialty from their global cuisine. After dinner, head over to the Tecumseh Civic Auditorium which plays host to national and international performers, like the National Shakespeare Company and the Chinese Golden Acrobats.

Shopping along Tecumseh's main street is a must. The Bird Mercantile features home décor, collectible gifts and crafts made locally. Creative Collections by Fonda has women's apparel from junior size through 4X. Great Ideas contains antiques, home furnishings and a drapery studio.

If you have a sweet tooth, don't forget to visit the Chocolate Vault Ice Cream Parlor and Candy Company where all of you chocoholics can find a great "fix" for the day. Triple AAA has rated The Daily Grind Coffee House & Sandwich Shop and also Lev's Bakery as the second best in

Michigan.

FESTIVAL

Everywhere we went that day, residents told us to be sure to come back for the Apple Pumpkin Festival on through Sunday, Oct. 13. Kapnick Orchards has live entertainment and wagon rides through the "Halloween Woods" at its Apple Festival and Craft Show, while downtown Tecumseh hosts an antique street fair and flea market. "Make it and Take it" booths are a highlight for the children, as Tecumseh cheerleaders will help them make crafts they can take home the same day.

ThreeOBags then headed to the Hitching Post Antique mall just two miles west of town. It features forty antique dealers under the same roof. It has a big selection of furniture, collectible dinnerware, books, and piano rolls for old player pianos.

One of Tecumseh's most endearing qualities is the historical Southern Michigan Railroad, which goes right through the middle of town.

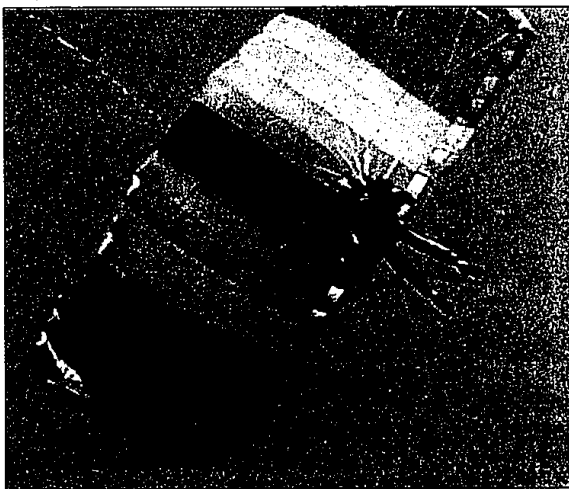
The railroad once brought settlers to southeast Michigan, but is now dedicated to tours.

Currently, reservations are being taken for the railroad's Fall Color Tours. The train leaves Tecumseh for a two hour round trip through Southeast Michigan's colorful landscape, stopping for cider and donuts midway.

Fall tours run through Nov. 3. Passengers can choose between a 1926 South Shore Passenger Car, the "Open Air" Gondola Car or the 1950's Caboose.

Tecumseh turned a nice drive in the country into an eventful day trip, and a little more understanding of the lure of Southwest Michigan's small towns.

ThreeOBags are three Garden City women - Sandra Campbell, Sharon Hegwood and Linda Sparkman - who collaborate on travel pieces. Contact them at www.threeobags.com



Visitors to Tecumseh can look up and see a rainbow of colors overhead.

**02/03 UMS FALL SEASON
UPCOMING EVENTS**

Venice Baroque Orchestra
Andrea Marchetti conductor and harpsichord
Guiliana Cammillo harpsichord
TODAY! 7:30 pm
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church - Ann Arbor
Devoted to recapturing the dazzling brilliance and evocative moods of the Italian Baroque style, the Venice Baroque Orchestra performs an all-Vivaldi program, including the Four Seasons.
Presented with the generous support of Beverly and Gerson Seltzer and Michael Skimming

Abbey Theatre of Ireland
Euripides' *Medea*
Featuring Fiona Shaw
Deborah Warner director
Thu **10/17** 8 pm
Fri **10/18** 8 pm
Sat **10/19** 2 pm & 8 pm
Sun **10/20** 2 pm
Power Center - Ann Arbor
"The most essential ticket of the theater season." (The New York Times, Oct. 4, 2002)
A classic Greek tragedy fit for the world of today, Euripides' *Medea* is a gripping tale of a woman scorned and her horrifying revenge. Fiona Shaw delivers a stunningly passionate and profoundly creative performance as Medea.
Sponsored by: Presented with support from the Wallace-Randall's Depot Funds and the National Endowment for the Arts
Major Sponsors: Michigan Radio and Henry Ford

**Takács Quartet
Garrick Ohlsson**
piano
Sun **10/20** 7 pm
Rochester Auditorium - Ann Arbor
"The depth of the Takács interpretations, matched with its superlative virtuoso technique and a consistently warm, velvety tone, made an attractive case to name it preeminent among active string quartets." (Washington Post)
This performance features the ensemble with UMS Distinguished Artist Award recipient Garrick Ohlsson for Ernst Dohndy's Piano Quintet.
Sponsored by: Media Sponsor: WCTE 93.1 FM

Lorraine Hunt Lieberson
mezzo-soprano
Robert Tooten piano
Wed **10/23** 8 pm
Lydia Mendelsohn Theatre - Ann Arbor
"There isn't a more beautiful voice before the public today." (Boston Phoenix)
Musical America's 2001 Vocalist of the Year, Lorraine Hunt Lieberson leaves critics at a loss for superlatives as a riveting operatic performer who sings everything from Baroque to contemporary music.
Sponsored by: National City.

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