

travel log

Iris Sanderson Jones
contributing travel editor

A week overflowing with plenty of news

The mailbag is bulging with information that may help you plan your travels this winter, spring and summer.

Eastern Airlines and Delta Airlines, the two major carriers from Detroit to Florida, are offering short-term discounts to try to fill their planes this winter.

In a move to counter charter and bulk travel programs, Eastern has introduced a seven-day vacation package that includes air fare, hotel accommodations, unlimited mileage rental car and a Walt Disney World two-day passport for \$329. You must travel Tuesday to Thursday. Children 17 and younger can share their parents' room at no extra charge.

DELTA HAS introduced an Individual Tour Basing Excursion (ITX) fare which provides for a 50 percent discount from standard tourist class. This means you can fly Monday to Thursday, except April 15 and 16, to Orlando and come back after a minimum of five days and a maximum of 21 days, except April 22, 23 or 28.

Delta has a limited number of seats on this program, which requires that you purchase a ground package amounting to at least \$99. The offer is good through June 18.

Call Eastern, Delta or your travel agent.

THE 630-PASSENGER S.S. Amerikanis, operated by Costa Lines, will begin three- and four-day cruises to the Bahamas April 23. Sail twice weekly from Port Everglades, Fla., and return from Nassau.

Costa Cruises will present a photography seminar on the March 28 sailing of the M/S World Renaissance, which recently began a seven-day Caribbean cruise schedule from San Juan.

I know nothing about the cruise, but I know the photographer, Lisl Dennis, who will lecture as well as demonstrate equipment. She was chosen by the Society of American Travel Writers as Photographer of the Year in 1980.

HYATT HOTELS are offering a new service to businessmen and others who want to send small packages around the country. Hotel Pak, available in 50 Hyatts in the continental U.S., allows two-pound packages to be dropped off at the desk of the hotel, charged to your bill and delivered anywhere in the continental U.S. the next day for \$23.

THE WORLD ADVENTURE Series, always perking along for area travel-lovers, will offer "Labrador Whales and Quebec Tales" at the Detroit Institute of Arts Sunday, On March 15, you can see Willis Moore, director of the Hawaii Geographic Society, with the film "An Insider's View of Hawaii."

Moore appears March 16 in Trenton Theater, Trenton, and March 18 at West High School in Garden City. He goes back to the DIA for a film on Malaysia March 19. That's one of the new Thursday morning film showings added this year to the World Adventure Series.

tripping

Venerable Ming ding

Last summer, a small group of people toured mainland China for two weeks sponsored by Eastern Michigan University.

In the group were mostly students, and a few interested others, who were seeing a country only recently opened to foreigners.

"We saw much more than regular tour groups because we were associated with a university and because I spoke Chinese," Dr. Jiu Hwa Upshur said. Upshur is an EMU associate professor of history and was the group's tour guide.

The 10-member tour visited not only the mandated popular spots, but also unlikely places as a jail, a Beijing (Peking) air raid shelter, a major archaeological excavation near Xi'an and first century tombs.

It was a successful tour, so much so that Upshur will take another group to China May 25 to June 16. This trip will include additional and different cities from last year's tour. The tour will

land in Manila May 27. From there, three days later, a flight to Beijing. The group will tour seven other Chinese cities including Datong (Tatung), Taiyuan, Shanghai, Hangzhou (Hanchow) and Guangzhou (Kwangchow). A two-day stop over in Hong Kong will be the last stop of the tour.

Arrangements are being handled by Travel Headquarters Inc. of California. The total tour price is about \$3,000, excluding air fare to San Francisco, point of arrival and departure.

The price covers hotel accommodations, travel admission fees, service charges and gratuities, baggage handling and three meals per day while in China and an American breakfast each day in Manila and Hong Kong. In addition, all transportation costs in China, various sightseeing costs, a banquet dinner in Hong Kong and a dinner and show in Manila.

For information, call Dr. Jiu Hwa Upshur at

the EMU Office of International Studies at 487-2424 or 665-4773.

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CEDARBURG, Wis. — It is exactly what you need when you are crazy with winter. A bed race on ice, with all your weirdly costumed friends cheering you on.

Somewhere in the world, where people are warm and sane, men and women work in the garden, walk to work and expect logical behavior of their neighbors. Here, in the North Temperate Zone, where we spend months defrosting our ears, it is another matter.

Perfectly rational citizens push homemade beds onto an ice rink, race one another around a barrel and then go home, pulling their beds behind them.

The annual Bed Race, part of the Winter Festival held every year in this historic little town of Cedarburg, has once more returned winter-weary Wisconsinites to sanity. Those who need a little extra help can climb uphill to the tasting room of Stone Mill Winery, in Cedar Creek Settlement.

THERE ARE HUGE sculpted blocks of ice on either side of Washington Avenue when you enter Cedarburg, 20 minutes drive north of Milwaukee, where 12,000 people live among 19th-century stone houses and an old woolen mill building listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings.

The Wittenburg Woolen Mill, built in 1884, was destined to be torn down and replaced by a gas station until merchants decided to convert it into an unusual shopping center.

Cedar Creek Settlement, which inhabits the old mill, now has 37 shops, restaurants and artists studios as well as the Stone Mill Winery.

The tour guides at the winery, who are fortunately just as crazy as the rest of the population, will give you a hilarious and informative 45-minute tour any day, along with samples of both natural and spiced wines. The wines are made from juice imported from Pennsylvania.



Even the youngsters get in on the act.

On a cold winter's day, with the wind blowing and the thermometer registering 5 degrees below zero, that hot-muddled wine is just what you need to get in the mood for a Winter Festival.

The Chamber of Commerce provides the huge blocks of ice along Washington Avenue, and the kids sculpt the ice with the basic tools allowed. No fancy welding equipment here.

As things speed up, participants go



Cardboard was used to make their ship, the Bionic Bed 19Z. The race, winter festival in which Cedarburg residents take to the sheets, somewhat this year saw dozens of entrants, is the highlight of a yearly what. (Photos by Iris Sanderson Jones)

Getting crazy in Wisconsin

By IRIS SANDERSON JONES

from the Snow Goose Hunt to the Barrel Jumping Contest to the ice-cutting contest. But it's all really a warmup for the grand Parade of Beds and the Annual Bed Race.

THE REVOLUTIONARY War Commander-in-Chief's Guards begin to gather around the Mill Pond in full regalia: coats, cocked hats, and all.

The beds appear, accompanied by their required five-person teams. Four years ago there were only five beds in the first Bed Race, but now there are dozens. Somebody tried to enter a bed plan in which the vehicle was lowered by a jet motor and equipped with a parachute, but that would break the rules.

The teams gather: the Bionic Bed, with four costumed mad scientists behind it and a woman inside to move the giant arms; the bed built around a rebel flag, the Cradle Rubbers, full of little kids; the hospital bed, whose participants are wrapped in bandages.

The rules are simple: Five men and/or women to a bed crew, all of them on ice skates. At least one member of the

crew on the bed at all times. Two-by-two, they race one another around the barrels placed on the frozen Mill Pond.

A Revolutionary War soldier shoots a three-quarter-pound pistol, or a small cannon, and everything gets knocked into a cocked hat.

The beds roar around the ice. The crowd screams. Skaters fly. Skaters fly. Beds run into barrels. One or more of the beds usually gets to the finish line eventually, whether or not they drag the barrel behind them.

It's the highlight of the festival, with the possible exception of the Alaskan Malamute Weight-Pull Contest.

ALL OF THIS may sound strange to people from Florida or Mexico, but it makes perfect sense here in the frozen north, where we are all a little bit crazy with winter. If you can't go south to a nice warm beach, you might as well enjoy the snow, which is sure to fly again before April.

And if you want to be sensible about it, Cedarburg is within easy driving distance of historic Pioneer Village and Wisconsin's only authentic old Covered Bridge.



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