The beach tents at Las Hadas, the only resort of its kind in the world.

MICKY JONES

1-of-a-kind traveler **Iris Jones** contributing travel editor

Dreams can come true in Mexican fairyland

MANZANILLO, MEXICO: The fairy lights are coming on at Las Hadas, twinkling across the boat harbor and up the white buildings that climb the hill like a multi-layered birthday cake, reflecting on cupolas and terraces, spiraling up the white water tower, with its top in heaven and its roots deep in the earth.

Cortes' sailors saw will-o-wisps glowing on the edge of these Mexican waters centuries ago and called them *las hadas*, the fairies. I do not doubt for a minute that I am in a fairyland, a scene from Fantasy Island on the side of a Mexican hill.

Las Hadas is unique in the proper sense of that overworked word; it is the only resort of its kind in the world. The setting is a fantasy. Whether or not your dreams come true is up to you. Dudley Moore's dreams came true here; this is the white-on-white vacation resort where he went on his exotic, erotic search for Bo Derek in the movie "10."

The trouble with a fantasy in this very real world is that it is extremely expensive, and it takes an army of Mexican workers whitewashing year-round to keep the fantasy white.

In 1974, when Bolivian tin magnate Don Antenor Patino hired architects to convert his fairy tale dream into concrete form, illustrious guests from all over the world opened Las Hadas in a Gala in White.

BY 1975, the dream threatened to become a white elephant, so Patino sold it to a Mexican conglomerate called Casolar. Casolar has just sold it to Marriott Hotels.

If you enjoy expensive splendor in a charming and comfortable setting, you should try a place like Las Hadas once in your life. You fly in via Guadalajara to the small Manzanillo airport, or drive south on Highway 200 from Puerta Vallarta.

Your name must be on the reservation list if you want to get through the gate. The bellboy takes you and your bags by motorized cart across the Plaza de Simon, site of a regular Saturday night fiesta and up the moorish streets to your own suite.

From the balcony, you can see across the bay to the 18-hole golf course and the para-sailing platform, and you can watch the turreted rooftops turn pink and blue in the rising or setting sun, but you cannot see the beach from here. For that you must visit the El Sarab tent in the morning.

From inside El Sarab, you will easily imagine yourself on the set of an old Arabian movie, with Lawrence of Arabia coming down the beach in his robes and the director about to say "cut."

El Sarab is a great tent with huge pillows to lounge and drink in the shade while gazing across the sand. In front, beyond the flowered pools, a row of single tents make a skyline with that of upturned beach boats. In the morning, the tent flaps are tied open but as the sun gets hotter they will close, one by one, to give the sunbathers shade.

What does this opulence cost? Approximately $150 a day, depending upon its erratic exchange rate of the Mexican peso. Plus meals, tips, drinks and other costs, of course.

WHEN THE splendor of Las Hadas begins to bore you, a Trimarin leaves daily for the funky fishing town of Manzanillo across the bay. Manzanillo is not a quaint or picturesque town in the sense that you expect of a fishing village.

The bay was once filled with the great fleets of the Spanish Main and it still holds fishing boats, freighters and naval ships. There is very little for the tourist to do except wander through the small town square and visit the shops.

If you are ambitions you can drive south to Cuyutlan, where a lucky few see something called the Green Wave. This great "tidal wave," sometimes 60 feet high, is tinged green by phosphorescent sea organisms. Unfortunately, it is not guaranteed to appear just because you are there to see it.

Visiting this coast is almost like visiting a tropical island, with occasional side trips into the reality of towns like Manzanillo and the much prettier Puerta Vallarta, 100 miles north, and the fantasy of places like Las Hadas.

There is little of the city life of Mexico City although there is plenty of singing and dancing in both Puerta Vallorta and Las Hadas resorts. There is little of the history of San Miguel de Allende or Guadalajara, in spite of the Spanish sailing ships.

What you find here are spectacular scenery, glorious sand beaches, enough of old Mexico to please you and enough resort life to provide the comforts that travelers like to go with it.

Nomads' open house on Sunday at Metro Airport

A non-profit Michigan travel club, owned by the members who travel with it, will hold an open house from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday at their own "Flying Clubhouse" at Metropolitan Airport.

The Flying Clubhouse is a Boeing 727 purchased last year for use on many of the Nomads' 48 annual long-weekend trips, as well as some of the longer trips scheduled each year.

Trips of one to four weeks have been made by the club to overseas destinations such as China, Scandinavia and East Africa. Family trips are popular to domestic locations such as Walt Disney World or the Grand Canyon.

A monthly newsletter lists upcoming destinations. The August edition, for example, shows trips scheduled through Nov. 3, including Greek and Scandinavian cruises, an around-the-world odyssey, a two-week trip to Hawaii and regular four-day trips to places like New Brunswick, Savannah, the World's Fair, San Francisco, Bermuda, Dominican Republic, San Antonio, Phoenix and Grand Cayman.

All are led by experienced trip directors who are club members.

President Joseph T. Benich says that most of the 4,000 memberships are middle-to upper-income travelers from Michigan and Ohio and that they join Nomads because they like the idea of traveling with friends in a situation where they can trust the tour arrangements.

Members board in the club hangar, and go through customs in their own hangar upon their return. Flights are similar to any commercial flight, except no alchohol is served aboard the plane.

Discounted memberships now available include a one-time fee of $125 single, $200 family (regularly $150 and $250) plus $9 a month. This gives you access to monthly mailings, and options to take any of the Nomads trips.

Benitch says Nomads trips are lower than thay would be on commercial flights, primarily because of the lower cost of air fare. All flight crews and equipment meet regular commercial safety standards.

If you are interested in the open house, take Middlebelt Road south across I-94 to Nomads World Terminal at 10100 Middlebelt Road, or call 941-8000.

PETS

THERE'S A LOT GOING ON IN

Observer & Eccentric classified ads

KEY TOURS CHARTERS:

TAMPA	from $149
FT. LAUDERDALE	from $159
TORONTO	from $65
ALSO...HAWAII	from $599
LAS VEGAS	from $249.95
ACAPULCO	from $339

WIN 2 FREE TICKETS!

Book ANY destination with Worldwide between now and Oct. 8 and be eligible for a drawing for 2 free tickets to Taxco to be used between Oct. 16 and Dec. 15.

Worldwide Specialists

(313) 559-1350

Escape to Our Island

PAY 7 - STAY 11

4 DAYS FREE

LARRY PASKOW Invites You to Escape the Heat and Enjoy Florida's Greatest Spa Value

★ Lose Weight ★

GUARANTEED

ONE LOW ROOM RATE INCLUDES: 3 MEALS DAILY, plus snacks - supervised by your own private NUTRITIONIST — FREE MASSAGES — exercise & yoga classes — water exercise — whirlpool — saunas — steam baths — FREE TENNIS — GOLF AVAILABLE — nutritional guidance sessions — dinner dancing — nitely social events — bingo — movies — plus MUCH, MUCH MORE!

Please call our reservations department and find out why you'll lose weight and look great at HARBOR ISLAND

On Biscayne Bay betw. Miami Beach & Miami

CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-327-7510

LARRY PASKOW'S

Harbor Island Spa

FLY FREE TO THE "PLAYGROUND OF THE CARIBBEAN"

NCL will fly you free, round trip, to the S/S Norway. For a week in a special world where pleasure is the password.

You'll sail to St. Thomas, Nassau, and an uninhabited Out Island on a ship that's a destination in herself. You can gamble in a lavish casino complete with roulette, blackjack, craps, and slots.

Exercise with aerobic dance, basketball, volleyball, jogging, and a paddleball court. See Broadway shows, Vegas-style revues. Applaud entertainers like Jack Jones, Phyllis Diller, and Diahann Carroll. In all, choose from over 100 different activities.

Call us today, to let yourself go on the S/S Norway with Free Round-Trip Air Fare. You'll love the savings. But most of all, you'll love the "Playground of the Caribbean" — the S/S Norway.

Let yourself go!

NORWEGIAN CARIBBEAN LINES

America's Favorite Cruise Line™

Venture Out

425-5834

TRAVEL SERVICE

32911 Warren (at Venoy) Westland

Las Vegas

3 NIGHTS AS LOW AS $279

4 NIGHTS AS LOW AS $299

Weekly Sunday, Monday, Thursday or Friday departures for 3 or 4 nights. Choice of Pan Am DC-10's or Global International Airways 707.

Departures / Hotel	Thurs. 3 Nts.	Sun. 4 Nts.	Fri. 3 Nts.	Mon. 4 Nts.
Las Vegas Club	$289	$309	$279	$299
Hacienda	299	319	289	309
Marina	329	349	319	329
Westward Ho	349	369	329	349
Tropicana Hotel & Country Club	359	379	349	369
Holiday Inn Center Strip	369	389	359	379
Dunes Hotel & Country Club	379	399	369	389
AIR ONLY	269		249	

Prices are per person, double occupancy.

Samson Tours Inc.

YOUR TRAVEL AGENT HAS FULL DETAILS

BIRMINGHAM: Chuck Randolph's TRAVEL & TOURS, 3588 W. Maple Rd., Birmingham, Michigan 48010, 645-5050

LIVONIA: Great! Travel Service, 38147 Ann Arbor Rd., 591-3611

LIVONIA: TRAVEL MASTERS INC., 5 Mile and Newburgh, 591-9022

CANTON: HARVARD SQUARE TRAVEL, 6056 Sheldon Rd. (Nr. Ford), Canton, MI 48187, 459-2010

NORTHVILLE: Travel Plans, Inc., 112 W. Main, 348-7200

DEARBORN: EMBASSY TRAVEL SERVICE, 23500 Michigan Ave., 274-2720

REDFORD - DETROIT: TRI-WAY TRAVEL, 23849 7 Mile Road Nr. Telegraph, 531-4100; 17938 9 Mile Nr. I-94, 774-8450

DETROIT AREA: HUDSON'S TRAVEL SERVICE

Oakland	585-8020
Westland	425-3386
Northland	569-5153
Downtown	223-2300
Briarwood	994-0085

USE YOUR HUDSON'S CHARGE

SOUTHFIELD: NATIONWIDE TRAVEL INT'L. INC., 15928 W. 10 Mile Rd., (313) 569-1166, Passport Pictures While You Wait

SOUTHFIELD: R. J. TRAVEL, 26400 W. 12 Mile, In Southfield Racquetime, 353-0500

DETROIT AREA: Greatways Travel Corporation

Southfield	352-4873
Pontiac	681-3000
Grosse Pte.	886-4710

SOUTHFIELD: SABRA TRAVEL, Farrell's Shopping Plaza, 29221 Southfield Rd., 552-0100

FARMINGTON HILLS: CAROUSEL TRAVEL, 24359 Halstead Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48018, 477-8200

TROY: TRANS AMERICAN TRAVEL SERVICE, 4940 Rochester Rd., 689-5400

TROY: THE TRAVEL SHOP, 1721 Crooks, Suite 106 N. of Maple, Troy, 649-0020

Go GLYNN Travel

Vacation Specials Hawaii

from $629 plus tax - including
•Round trip air via United Airlines
•Hotel Accommodations
•Round-trip transfers
•Plus more (call for details)

CRUISE

from $810 - free round trip air to Miami

For Additional Information Call:

LIVONIA 477-7205

NOVI 478-1311

Discover the Holidome at a Special Price.

For just $24.50 per person, double occupancy + tax, enjoy a Friday, Saturday or Sunday night in one of our luxurious rooms. Poolside rooms are available at no additional charge while they last.

The rate includes two complimentary cocktails and all the features of the Holidome:

- Large swimming pool
- Modern exercise room and sauna
- Whirlpool
- Billiards and ping pong tables
- Indoor putting green
- Electronic game room

HOLIDOME INDOOR RECREATION CENTER

Holiday Inn

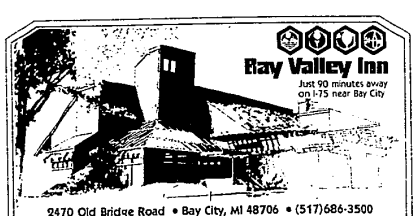
LIVONIA WEST

17123 Laurel Park Dr. North

Phone (313) 464-1300

*You must present this ad to receive the special rate. Offer expires 12/30/82

2



Bay Valley Inn

Just 90 minutes away on I-75 near Bay City

2470 Old Bridge Road • Bay City, MI 48706 • (517)686-3500

MINI VACATIONS

GOLF WEEKENDS TENNIS WEEKENDS

All weekends include a comfortable Inn Room for three days and two nights, a Welcome Gift, Cocktails, two Dinners, Breakfast, Lunch, Bay Valleys Fabulous Sunday Brunch and the use of the recreational facilities.

- Weekend Packages are from $230 for two persons.
- Two Day One Night Midweek Packages are from $120
- Weekday Business Rates include free outdoor tennis.

For more information and Reservations call Tollfree in MI 800/292-5028, In Detroit call 313/963-3242

Bring this Ad and receive $15 off on any Midweek Package subject to change

American Red Cross

Time on your hands?

We could use those hands.

Join us.