

SHANGRI-LA

Choices come in various packages

By Joan Boram
special writer

THERE WAS a time when a slow boat to China, preferably a freighter, was the stuff of which dreams were made.

Nothing to do but sit there and stare at the sky or the sea, or doze over "A la recherche du temps perdu." Food was ample and hearty; there were no lavish midnight banquets.

There were no lectures on investing in futures or seminars on how to flirt, and, please God, no aerobics. "Relaxing," it was called.

Talk about temps perdus!

Today's traveler, glued to the tube at home, wants to be entertained, educated, amused, and force-fed shrimp at all hours of the day and night.

"In my dad's time, the late 1940s and the '50s at the (Joan Anderson) Agency, the mode of travel for those with the time and the money was the ocean liner," recalls Pam Nikitas.

"They took the S.S. France or the first Queen Mary, and had a private driver with a Daimler meet them at the dock. Then they took a leisurely tour of the countries they wanted to see."

Southfield resident Nikitas "grew up" in the travel business, and took over the Joan Anderson Travel Service when her father, George Nikitas, retired. "The children and grandchildren of those leisurely travelers are our clients today. They can afford the best accommodations, but times

have changed. 'The best' today usually implies a complete package: all you have to do is show up — and pay.

"The Sea Goddess I and II and Abercrombie & Kent represent the finest in luxury tours. They are the first to fill up: there are a lot of people out there who want the best and will pay for it."

The Sea Goddess is a ship, but that's about the only thing she has in common with a slow boat to China. Lifestyle aboard the Cunard vessel is typified by the photos in the lavish brochure. Throughout, passengers are shown wearing black-tie or swim suits.

If your idea of dressing for dinner is putting on socks, you might feel a little out of place . . . mingling amiably . . . with nine Saudi princesses, a Swiss hotelier, a Houston oil and cattle king, and a well-to-do English family" who represent the typical Sea Goddess passenger mix.

Sea Goddesses cruises vary in price, according to destination and duration. At 11-day Caribbean/New Year's cruise is \$7,900. A 14-day Orient/Holiday cruise, beginning and ending in Singapore, with stops at Jakarta, Bali and other ports, is \$9,000.

On the other hand, "The Royal Air Tour" promises "the wonders of the world by private jet." Offered also by Abercrombie & Kent, The Tour is limited to 88 travelers. Four tour hosts will ensure comfortable sightseeing and personal service.

An L-1011 jetliner has been

refitted to accommodate the 88 passengers in first class luxury. (The plane usually carries 344 passengers.) The entire rear of the airplane has been remodeled into a bar and lounge area. Passengers will spend no more than 7½ hours in flight during any single segment of the trip, and the group will always fly west with the sun.

The tour departs from Los Angeles via Honolulu, and will return via New York thirty-five days later. In between you will experience "a program gratifyingly balanced between sophisticated urban pleasures and adventures off the beaten path."

The itinerary includes: three nights in French Polynesia; three nights in Australia; three nights in Bali; three nights in Hong Kong; three nights in China; three nights in Delhi and Agra; five nights in Kenya; six nights in Egypt; and three nights in England.

Promising an itinerary that explores the master works of man and nature, members of the Royal Air tour will see the beaches of Bora-Bora, the Masai Mara Game Reserve, the River Nile, as well as the Sydney Opera House, the Great Wall, the Pyramids, and the Taj Mahal.

THE TOUR OFFERS more than monuments, however. Members will also have the opportunity to meet a wide variety of interesting and influential people around the globe. Prominent local dignitaries have been invited for cocktails and dinner at each



stop: In Agra, the Maharajah of Jaipur has been invited, and in Nairobi Richard Leakey will discuss his latest archaeological finds.

The all-inclusive price of the tour is \$36,000, double occupancy, with a \$2,850 single supplement. In addition to air transportation, all meals, cruise and land accommodations, surface transportation, sightseeing and gratuities, the fare includes First Class air travel between your home town and Los Angeles at departure, and between New York and your home town at the conclusion of the trip.

If the world's 20 greatest sights are more than you want to cope with, how about one country, in-depth, with a bona fide Jewish Mother?"

In the course of their 39-year marriage, Lois Kozlow and husband, artist Richard Kozlow, have lived in many and diverse lands. While Richard painted, Lois ran the house, coped with local customs and raised their four daughters.

IN 1981, LOIS decided to

share her experience and knowledge, and the first LARK (Lois and Richard Kozlow) tour, to Mexico, was offered. Since then, she has offered 15 major trips: in addition to Mexico, destinations have included Morocco, England, France and Italy. In 1990, a trip to Turkey will be added to the roster.

This year, for the first time, LARK offered a one-day tour — to Columbia, Ind., where leading United States architects have been commissioned to design public buildings. Renowned architectural photographer Balthazar Korab led the tour, and local docents provided additional information. "It was a great success," said Kozlow. "I plan on more short trips in the future."

"My tours are designed to fulfill everybody's fantasy of what a trip should be," said Kozlow, who manages to be intense and buoyant at the same time. "They are a complete experience.

Imagine waking up in a luxury hotel in Marrakech at 4:30 in the morning, getting into a Land Rover, and driving into the desert to watch the sun rise over a sand

stop! It's an experience like no other, one that you will never forget. That's what my tours are about: the luxury of being able to live and experience a dream, a fantasy, an adventure.

Everything is taken care of, there's nothing to do but enjoy."

Kozlow won't take clients to a country that she doesn't know really well. She and Richard are going to Turkey this fall to prepare for the 1990 tour. "I want to know exactly what I'm going to offer my people. I plan every detail, right down to every item on the menu. There are no surprises on my tours: I'm a real challenge to the local guides — they knock themselves out for me."

KOZLOW LIMITS THE number of tour participants to 24. "I can't watch out for everybody individually if there are any more."

"People hate sleeping in a different bed every night, so I try to stay in one place as long as possible, and take side trips by bus. It's not the bus that everybody dreads — it's like a

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MUSIC BOXES: an updated look

By C. L. Rogenstein
staff writer

MUSIC BOXES, old or new, make a luxurious gift of music for a special someone, and the San Francisco Music Box at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi is one of the places in the area that has some great new ones.

The biggest and best may well be the 144-note, cylinder music box by the Reuge company of Switzerland.

Of rosewood inlaid with tulip-wood and brass, the box is about 24-inches long and 12 inches deep. The brass cylinder has a

repertoire of four songs, including Tchaikovsky's "Waltz of the Flowers," Mozart's "Turkish March," Beethoven's "Pastorale" and Chopin's "Polonaise."

The workmanship and deep, rich tone of the box are worthy of its \$4,500 price tag.

SOME OF THE most charming of the music boxes are the bird cages, also by Reuge, in three different sizes.

Two birds, one red and one blue, sing. Not like a music box, but like real birds. A card that comes with the bird cages said the songs are actual bird calls, though it doesn't specify which ones.

"Reeds and bellows make the bird calls," said Linda Jones, manager of the shop, "and an old couple in Switzerland still hand-leather the birds."

The largest cage, about 14 inches high and six inches in diameter, can be had for \$2,500. Prices for the smaller ones are \$950 and \$475.

The bigger the cage, however, the greater the range of movement in the birds. All the birds' beaks open and close as they sing. But in the largest cage, the birds turn on their perches, twirl their tails and cock their heads from side to side like real birds as they sing.

One of the most charming music boxes is in the form of a shadow-box.

Titled "Dancers 1789," two couples in white wigs, silks and velvet clasp hands and twirl to the music of Mozart's "Minuet" and Haydn's "Serenade." Three mirrors at the back give an "infinity" effect. Jones said — the scene looks like an endless ballroom of elegant dancers, all for \$2,100.

MUSIC BOXES ALSO come in smaller, more personal packages. One of the more fun and portable varieties is a musical automated alarm watch.

"About the size of a large pocket watch, the face is a reproduction of an 18th century painting by Geneva artist Carlo Pouazzi. Silver figures at the bottom of the scene move when the music, Mozart's 'Minuet,' is played."

A falconer, on a horseback, moves his arm and falcon up and down. His horse's head also moves up and down to drink from a trough while a milkmaid opposite works the pump handle.

The music also plays when the alarm goes off. A pleasant reminder for important times, the watch retails for \$1,300.

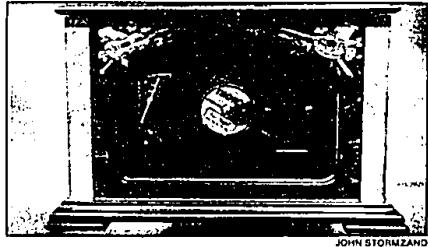
Jones also has musical lockets, with the smallest music box movement.

The oval locket, about one-inch long and a half-inch deep, plays "Memories," and can be had for \$275.

At the locket are 13-karat gold plated.

The Reuge music boxes have a special feature: Jones gets boxes from Italy for the smaller, 18-, 26- or 72-note movements. The shop can then install a movement of any tune they have available for the size of the movement.

PRICES RANGE FROM \$39 for the 18-note boxes, to \$1,000 for the 72-note music boxes, de-



pending on how elaborate the individual boxes are, Jones said.

Jones also has in one disc-playing music box by Thorens, a famous name in antique music boxes. The Thorens music box comes with five interchangeable bases, each with a different tone for \$725.

The nice thing about the Thorens, which is about one foot square, is that one can add discs. Additional discs come in sets of five for \$40.

A few examples of the grand-

est of music boxes, the antique Regals, are still around and available through some antique dealers.

The foreunner of the jukebox, said Marlene Barta of the Du-Mochele Gallery in downtown Detroit, Regals were huge floor model music boxes with enough room to fill a house.

With German or Swiss movements in cases as tall as six or seven feet, the Regals (and

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Questions regarding the section should be directed to McGee at 591-2300, Ext. 313.