

TRAVEL

O&E Monday, November 4, 1991

BA(O)F-5C(L-4C)



crossroads
Iris Jones

Thanks a lot for taking my coat

If your name is Ethel and you work at the business center in Detroit Metropolitan Airport, you have my eternal gratitude.

The last thing I need in the Caribbean is an old, stained winter jacket, the kind you shovel snow in but wouldn't wear anywhere else, not even to the supermarket.

It was chilly when I left home at 6:30 a.m. on a Saturday morning and all I wanted was something to keep me warm in the car on the way to the airport.

As I grabbed the old red jacket from the hall closet, a voice in my head said "don't leave it on when you get out of the car."

Obviously I wasn't listening. Obviously my husband Mickey doesn't notice what I wear.

It's his jacket, the sleeves hang down over my hands, so why didn't he notice that I was still wearing it when he gallantly carried my overpacked suitcase to the Delta Air Lines counter and waved me goodbye?

It was a busy morning, everybody lined up waiting to board a plane to Walt Disney World.

I hadn't been in line for more than a few minutes before I started getting warm.

That's when I noticed that I was standing in line between a Mickey Mouse shirt and a straw hat with a very warm lined winter jacket hanging over my hands.

Nobody at the airline counter had time to help me get rid of it.

The agent told me that the lockers available in the terminal were cleaned out every 24 hours.

The girl at the newsstand gave me a plastic shopping bag to carry it in.

The two sales clerks chatting away in the only open gift shop were not inclined to help.

The clock was ticking. I was there, after all, to catch a plane.

I went upstairs to the airport offices, still elated early on a Saturday morning.

I went to the post office counter, closed on a Saturday morning.

I was heading downstairs to the baggage counter when I spotted the business center.

Ethel didn't have big envelopes either but Ethel cared.

She offered to hold the jacket for my return, but my return flight was due in at 10 p.m., after she closed.

Ethel found two old envelopes and some tape and helped me make a package.

She offered to take the package to the post office, repack it if necessary, call my husband and tell him to pick it up.

In short, to do whatever was necessary to take it off my hands.

So here I am, aboard a Delta flight to Orlando and Nassau, where I will not have a single thing to wear if I have to shovel snow.

Ski show

The annual Detroit Ski Show has moved.

It will be held 6 to 11 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15, noon to 10 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 17, at the Ladbroke Detroit Race Course, 28001 Schoolcraft in Livonia.

The show will include a ski sale, ski exhibits, indoor skiing demonstrations on a revolving deck, as well as films, ski celebrities, rollerblade demonstrations and ski technique talks.

Tickets cost \$6 for adults and \$2 for children 6 to 12 years old, at the door. Call 332-5050 for information.

Vegas a good bet for kids too



by MARY QUINLEY of Lovisa

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The signs in the gambling casinos read: "Persons under the age of 21 are not allowed in the gaming area." Take the kids anyway. There are lots of things for youngsters to do in Las Vegas.

Stay at one of the numerous themed hotels: Circus Circus, Mirage or Excalibur.

Circus Circus caters to kids. Acrobats, trapeze artists and trained animal shows perform under the big top daily, beckoning young customers to shoot-the-hoop or knock down bowling pins while parents relax in the Hors-A-Round carousel bar within sight of the midway.

A tropical forest of waterfalls, palm trees and lagoons welcomes Mirage visitors. Behind the lobby's front desk sits a 20,000 gallon salt-water aquarium filled with sharks, rays and puffer fish. You can view the bottlenose dolphins through an underground glass window at the Dolphin Habitat.

The Mirage also houses several white tigers, which star in Siegfried & Roy, an illusionist act.

A medieval motif at the Excalibur features a moat, drawbridge, stone turrets and moving walkway, all of them alive with jugglers, madrigal singers and magicians. Sit in the Magic Motion Machines for a three-minute "roller coaster" ride in a motion simulator.

Need a break from the Las Vegas strip? Drive 15 minutes southeast to Henderson, home of the Ethel M. Chocolate Factory and Cactus Garden, the Kidd Marshmallow Factory and Camis Clothing outlet.

Gourmet chocolates are offered at the end of the self-guided tour of Ethel M. Children receive a free bag of marshmallows at the Kidd Marsh-

mallow Factory. The Camis warehouse is steps away.

Twenty miles west of downtown Las Vegas is Red Rock Canyon. The entire family will enjoy the unusual geological formations and colored rock stratas.

As you venture back to the city of dazzling lights, contemplate your nighttime entertainment. Food is a bargain and children are welcome at several of the shows.

SPLASH! an award-winning production in the Riviera Hotel, includes mermaids, motorcycles, magicians, comedians and high divers. Imaginary sea creatures and synchronized swimmers perform center stage in a 20,000-gallon water tank accompanied by music and laser lights.

King Arthur's Tournament features jousting, sword fights and romance during dinner at the Excalibur. Some shows feature topless performers, so ask first.

You can enjoy a 24-hour bowling alley, visit slides, pools and wave machines in the Wet 'n Wild water park and Ripley's Believe It Or Not; Guinness World of Records Museum or the popular Liberace Museum. Walk through the Museum of Natural History and view the animated dinosaur demonstrations.

If you crave "music that soothes the soul" go to the Hard Rock Cafe. The walls are smothered with guitars, drums, photographs and music memorabilia from recognized artists.

With a little planning and a sack full of quarters for slot machines and arcade games, this desert town guarantees family fun. Inexpensive meals are available round the clock. Buffet breakfasts start at \$1.99. Hotels accommodate kids in their dining rooms.

For more information, contact your travel agent or the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, 3150 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, Nev. 89109-9096 or telephone (702) 733-2323.



Photos by Las Vegas News Bureau

Kids and adults can visit the Museum of Natural History in Las Vegas and view the animated dinosaur demonstrations.

The Lost City Museum in Overton, an hour from Las Vegas, houses exhibits on flora and fauna of southern Nevada.



Travel agents deal packages

Lynda Lynch of Uniglobe Arboretum Travel in Farmington Hills, and the new president of the Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, sends clients to Las Vegas on either Northwest Airline packages or on Key Tour charter packages. Packages are also available through Hamilton, Miller, Hudson and Fayne.

"Charter packages cost slightly less than scheduled airlines, but you are locked in to their flight times. Some people prefer to pay slightly more for Northwest Airline packages and fly at their own convenience."

"Key Tour rates start at \$219 for three nights. Their three-night package, including air, at the luxury hotel Mirage is \$399 in January. Northwest sells the Mirage for \$105 per

person double occupancy for three nights, plus \$309 for their lowest midweek airfare, for a total of \$414," she said.

Three days at Excalibur, a first-class hotel, including airfare is \$329 through Key Tours. Circus Circus is not listed in either package but room rates are \$30 a night. All these rates are per person double occupancy, she said.

Northwest flies non-stop to Las Vegas three or four times a day, morning, afternoon, evening and returns four times a day with an additional red-eye or late-night flight. Key Tour packages run Friday to Monday, Thursday through Sunday plus other configurations.

For more information, contact your travel agent. Remember, there is no charge for using a travel agent.

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Marriott Southfield

Registration from \$115-\$150 (116 available)

For information or registration, call Pat at 317-297-5733

New Location DETROIT SKI SHOW

LADBROKE DETROIT RACE COURSE (DRC)
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November 15-17, 1991

The Detroit Ski Show brings the world of skiing to your door step. It's vibrant with the frosty feel for adventure and the spirit that belongs to skiing alone!

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The Revolving Ski Deck & Trampoline Show brings the excitement of freestyle skiing indoors. Stop in at the Super Sale for terrific deals on ski equipment, clothing and accessories. Check out the Rollerblade Demo Area. Put those in-lines on and try them out! Pro Talks, hosted by professional ski instructors, cover a wide range of skiing topics and the Equipment Center features leading manufacturers of skis, boots, bindings and poles. Preview the season's latest fashions in the Mountain Highlights Fashion Review with styles from Descente, Head Sports Wear, CB Sports, Roffe/Demetre and Sport Obermeyer. And, don't forget to sign up to WIN an exciting ski trip for two on American Airlines to VAIL!

Hours: Fri. 6-11 p.m., Sat. Noon-10 p.m., Sun. Noon-6 p.m. Admission: \$6 adults, \$2 children (6-12)

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