

## TRAVEL with Bates

By Sandi Bate



Discover the secrets of Sarasota, Florida, a subtropical climate and an elegant place to play. Spend the mornings enjoying the sunny beach, spend the afternoon looking at Baroque paintings enjoying and finish the day watching the famous theatrical sunset, then see the opening of a play.

Since the 1930's Sarasota's reputation as a cultural oasis has attracted writers and painters, actors and musicians. Its crown cultural attraction, the once-splendid John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art has been called by one art historian a "Sleeping Beauty." After years of neglect, Sarasota has entered the 1990's in an exciting fever of cultural renaissance. Nine years and twenty million dollars later a reborn Ringling Museum opened in 1991 to national accolades. Next door, is a new repertory theatre. The ASOIO Center for the Performing Arts, gracefully echoes the museum's Italianate facade. Sarasota also gained a new resident ballet company, which frequently performs at the newly renovated opera house. Sarasota Opera presents four productions per season.

Many new art galleries have opened, sprinkled along a few blocks in what was a few years ago a largely deserted downtown. This area has been officially designated "The Theatre and Arts District."

Sarasota has been recognized internationally. The French government chose it as the host city for film festivals. It is the only city in the United States so honored. All French Cinema will be exclusively premiered here. Under the direction of New York film critic Molly Haskell, the festival shows the best of what's new in France before it reaches New York, Chicago or Los Angeles.

Sarasota has managed to acquire the amenities of a big city without relinquishing its essentially small-town atmosphere. The town spreads in graceful arcs around serene Sarasota Bay, separated from the Gulf of Mexico by a string of palm-fringed sparkling Key islands. Enjoy 150 miles of natural splendor with blue water front and 35 miles of fine white sandy beaches, inlets, shallows, and swamps.

Wonderfully varied topography offers a multitude of possibilities for boaters, swimmers, fisherman, snorkelers, naturalists, or sand castle builders.

(See Travel with Bates, Page 7)

## MONEY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZED TAX RECORDS CAN SAVE YOU MONEY

Good financial records can make preparing your 1992 income tax return less difficult points out the Nevada Society of CPAs. In addition, organized records may help to minimize your tax bill, reduce fees paid to tax preparers, and verify your tax claims if the IRS selects your return for an examination

### • Review Past Returns

If you're unsure of the information you'll need to complete your 1992 tax return, take a look at last year's return. Note the kinds of documentation necessary to support the return. Then make a list of the deductions and tax credits that you qualified for last year, as well as any other deductions you may be eligible

to take on your 1992 return. Establish files for each of the items on your list and begin storing your records accordingly.

### • Collect All Income Statements

First locate items that identify your sources of income, such as your Form W-2, provided by your employer. This form indicated how much you were paid during the year and how much was withheld for federal income tax, state income tax, FICA (Social Security), and other amounts deducted from your pay.

Important forms to put in your "income" file include 1099 forms, provided by banks and financial institutions, showing interest

earned on your accounts. Your state government may also send you a Form 1099 indicating any tax refunds received for the prior year. If you sold securities over the past year, you'll also need to locate Form 1099-B, issued by your stockbroker.

Don't forget to collect documentation for other sources of taxable income, such as unemployment compensation, dividends, Social Security or pension benefits, alimony, and income from self-employment, trusts, partnerships, or S corporations.

### • Locate Medical and Dental Bills

Medical expenses that exceed 7.5 percent of your adjusted gross income are deductible. To see if you exceed this floor, pull out all your bills for medical expenses and the re-

ceipts that show the date they were paid. Don't overlook bills for expenses such as new eyeglasses, prescriptions or medical insurance premiums. Transportation costs that were necessary for you to obtain medical care are also deductible.

### • Document Charitable Contributions

You'll need either receipts or cancelled checks to support cash contributions to qualified charities. If you donate a total of \$500 or more of property, you must fill out Form 8233, *Noncash Charitable Contributions*. If one single donation of property exceeds \$500, you need to provide more information on the form. Additional requirements apply if you make a donation of property exceeding \$5,000.

• Gather Important Home-  
(See Money Mgt, Page 7)

## BUSINESS

### THE MATURE WORKER BRINGS A POSITIVE FORCE TO BUSINESSES

CARSON CITY — Businesses throughout Nevada find they profit from experience — The experience that older employees bring to work each day. Next week is National Employ The Older Worker Week, March 7-13, and a good time to acknowledge the positive forces that older workers offer any business. Older workers bring a wealth of experience, ability, loyalty and dependability to work with them. They bring life and work skills that can only come

from years of practical experience.

Stan Jones, executive director of the Nevada Employment Security Department, said that his department offers all workers, including older workers, a number of programs and services to find their place in Nevada's job market.

"Older workers provide employers with stability, and sincere, honest drive to do a good job," Jones said. "These mature workers represent a valuable resource that we, as a state, cannot afford to waste." He noted that in the coming decades older workers will comprise the majority of the state's and nation's work force. The increase of older workers reflects the aging of baby boom workers and a reduction in the number of young workers entering the labor force.

He urges employers with job openings and older workers seeking employment to call or visit their local office of the Nevada Employment Security Department to explore the Employment Service's free programs and services.

## Real Estate Perspective

By Loretta A. Hall



### SINGLE-FAMILY HOME BUILDING ON THE RISE ACROSS MOST OF THE U.S.

Single-family home building is surging in most parts of the country, including Las Vegas. That is good news for home buyers, home sellers, real estate brokers, lenders, builders, appliance manufacturers and the overall economy. In some areas, the growth surge has been so dramatic that new permits or construction starts are up by 60 percent or more, compared with last year and 1991. In many large metropolitan areas, permits or starts are up 25 percent to 30 percent.

New single-family homes jumped by 21 percent nationwide during the first nine months of 1992 and the numbers are still climbing. Even in some of the areas that have had special struggles with the real estate recession, permits are at least

warming up, if not red hot. The home building recession, in other words, in my opinion is over in most of the country. Gloom and doom were the right words for perhaps 1990 and 1991, but they are simply inaccurate for what's going on now. As you drive around our city, you will see the tremendous building growth and must agree that we are in a red hot mode.

Low mortgage rates, lower land costs and more affordable housing prices are the motive forces behind the housing recovery and the sharp increase in the single-family home building industry. Soon, the ripple effects of the recovery will start flowing into the overall economy. People are suddenly starting to notice that the housing market looks better than ever. They are also saying that it is time to buy or build that nice new home and take advantage of the present situation — you too, should check out the possibilities!

As always, please contact a professional for all your Real Estate needs or write to me c/o REAL ESTATE PERSPECTIVE, Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice Newspaper, 1201 South Eastern Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89104.

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