

# Lots for kids

## It's Space Day Sunday in Jackson

Continued from preceding page

You can get a good sense of the museum from here, as it describes a complete circle under the high dome. To the right, a history of rocketry; ahead, a model of Surveyor III and a photographic display of the Space Shuttle; to the left, a real piece of moon rock and kids playing computer games to the beep and flash of lights.

A BRIEF education in galactic history leads you to three space suits, worn by Deke Slayton, Jim Lovell Jr. and James McDivitt in the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo programs. Nearby are exhibits telling you things you always wanted to know: What do they wear under those space suits and how do they go to the toilet in space.

There is the capsule that took Enos the Chimp into space, the full-sized mockup of Alan Shepard's Mercury capsule and the S.S. Jackson, named for kids to ride to the moon and back. The S.S. Jackson is a new exhibit, which will be launched on Space Day by astronaut Al Worden.

It is from this Gemini Spacecraft Trainer that astronauts McDivitt and White trained to walk in

space. Here is the Lunar Roving Vehicle with its piano wire legs, and a wall of photographs connecting five astronauts to Michigan.

Worden and McDivitt went to school in Jackson, Jack Louma's father still lives two miles away. Roger Chaffee, born in Grand Rapids in 1936, died in the tragic Apollo fire in 1961. Alan Bean, whose parents grew up in Jackson, was spacecraft commander of Skylab Mission 2.

THERE ARE several nice little touches in the museum, like the Skylab shower and the vacuum they used to get rid of the water when there was no gravity to pull it down. A table with two space helmets and a mirror, inviting the kids to try on the helmet and pose as space men.

The moon rock, from Apollo 15, is 3.3 billion years old. You can look at a slice of it through a microscope.

There is a lot of hardware here, but some humanizing touches too, especially the astronaut's voice that fills the darkened room of the Astroblaster:

"We have seen something that has changed our lives forever."

"It's not me — it's you, it's us, that have had this experience."

If you would like to participate in this close-to-home out-of-this-world experience, it starts at noon Sunday where the Mercury Redstone rocket rises outside the Michigan Space Center. Three new naval missiles have been added to the outside exhibit this week.

WORDEN AND other guests will take part in the 1:30-2:15 p.m. program. The air wing of the Michigan National Guard will do a flyover at 1:38 p.m. The LS Society will show films of the possible industrialization and colonization of space at 1 and 3:30 p.m.

The Great Lakes Association of Rocketry and a Detroit area organization called SEMROCS, both members of the National Association of Rocketry, will shoot off models of space rockets, including the store-bought variety and some original whiz-bang smoke-and-fire models, 3-4 p.m.

There will be sky divers, balloon rides, helicopter rides, radio controlled planes, Star-Trek-style actors, food and lots of other Planet Earth special events during the day.

Who said you had to jet across the planet, and ride an elephant to have fun as a traveler?

**travel log**  
**Iris Jones**  
 contributing travel editor

### Clearing up the loose ends after a long trip

I have a collection of imaginary obituaries for travel writers: falling off a camel in front of an Egyptian pyramid or dying of Montezuma's Revenge while riding past an Inca ruin in the Andes. My 1981 favorite so far: killed by a moonrall while chasing a giraffe, on the back of the feed truck at Busch Gardens in Tampa. This week I have added another one: smothered by paper that crawls out of the mailbag, creeps across my desk and climbs over my head.

Before that happens to me, I want to share some of this overflowing travel information with you:

No single occupancy surcharge. That's always news. Single passengers sailing on the Cunard Countess and Cunard Princess one-week Caribbean cruises can have sole occupancy of a cabin while paying double-occupancy rates. From \$855, with 30 days advance reservation.

Campsite reservations. The National Park Service has a computerized Ticketron campground reservation system in operation for the summer season. This allows you to reserve campsites in advance at Grand Canyon, Great Smokey Mountains, Rocky Mountain, Sequoia, Shenandoah and Yosemite National parks and the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. Charge is \$1.75 plus campground fees.

Contact Public Inquiries Office, National Park Service, Washington D.C. 20240, for list of department stores, auto clubs and sporting goods stores that have Ticketron terminals.

Ottawa Marathon for Women. The fourth annual Avon International Marathon for Women, including runners from 30 countries, will take place Aug. 23 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Hotel jogging tracks have become very popular, so if you are planning to participate in that marathon you can warm up at almost any hotel in the U.S. and Canada. The Sheraton Washington, for example, has a jogging path and fitness trail marked out in Rock Creek Park, a block from the front door of the hotel. Ask for a jogging map wherever you go if you are a panteer and puffer.

Need a room for the royal wedding? Room Center, an international hotel booking agency, has booked a block of 480 London hotel rooms for the week of July 25-31 for travelers who will be in England during the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana.

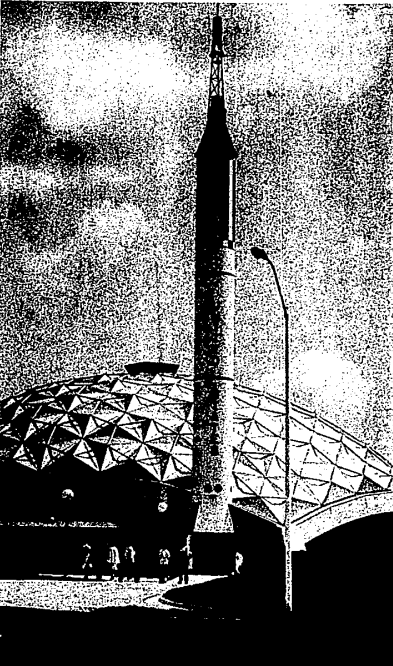
For reservations, call (212) 247-8600 in New York. If you are foolish enough to go to London without a reservation, you can call (01) 437-5984 from London.

Travel appointments. Arthur Gimson, general manager of the Northfield Hilton in Troy, has been named chairman of the Owner Advisory Committee (OAC) of the Metropolitan Detroit Convention and Visitors Bureau (MDCVB). The OAC is the nine-member advisory board that decides how to spend the 1 percent assessment being charged now on all hotel rooms in Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties. The money goes to MDCVB to promote tourism in the tri-county area.

Vince M. Durocher, a native of Windsor, has been named district marketing manager for Detroit by Delta Air Lines, which has offices in Southfield.



Andy Bender of Germany plays astronaut in front of the Space Center's Apollo 9 space capsule. Andy was visiting friends in Farmington Hills and Birmingham.



CHARLES GASS

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