

New group for canary owners

Area breeders and trainers of American Singer canaries will meet at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13, to charter a local chapter of American Singer Canaries National.

The new chapter plans to hold demonstrations of song training and discussions of line breeding, rearing of baby canaries and the starting of new strains.

Fort-hopping in Michigan

Historical booty in bountiful barracks

Travelers can turn back the hands of time and explore Michigan's history by visiting one of the state's many forts and villages, suggests the Automobile Club of Michigan.

Fort-hopping will take travelers from Detroit west to Niles and north to Mackinaw City and Copper Harbor.

At Detroit's Fort Wayne, completed in 1851, visitors can see the original stone barracks and powder magazine while touring exhibits depicting the city's military history.

Niles' Fort St. Joseph Museum, while not a fort, contains artifacts of a one-time military post built in 1691 and held at various times by French, British and Spanish troops.

A trip to the Straits of Mackinac brings travelers to Mackinaw City's Fort Michilimackinac, where the 1763 capture of the British fort by the Indians is re-enacted every Memorial Day weekend.

At the northernmost tip of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Fort Wilkins State Park near Copper Harbor has the last original wood fort east of the Mississippi River. The stockade's whitewashed buildings, built in 1844, are filled with furniture, tools, clothing and other relics of the past.

Visitors to one of Michigan's 11 villages can shop in old-time country stores, tour elegant homes, explore ghost towns or ride on steam locomotives.

World famous Greenfield Village in Dearborn offers rides in horse-drawn carriages, Model T cars, a paddlewheel boat and steam locomotive. Nineteenth century buildings in this collection of Americana include the home where Noah Webster completed his first dictionary and the birthplace of auto pioneer Henry Ford.

At Crossroads Village near Flint, the steam-powered Huckleberry Railroad takes passengers through a typical community of the 1860s and 1870s that includes a grist mill, one-room schoolhouse and depot.

Squires Street Square, a collection of restored shops along the Rouge River in Rockford, offers

everything from penny candy and homemade candies to quilting supplies and antiques.

The elegant homes of two 19th century lumber barons can be toured at Muskegon's Heritage Village. Another one-time community of lumber barons, Huron City in the Thumb, was destroyed by fire in 1981 and rebuilt. Its restored Lumber Town now boasts a museum, 19th century general store and Coast Guard station.

Charlton Park Village and Museum near Hastings has 10 buildings from the 1890s, including a stagecoach inn, blacksmith shop and bank. Mill Race Historical Village at Northville features a one-room schoolhouse, bandstand, blacksmith shop, general store, rustic bridge which spans the millrace and a cottage where visitors can purchase work by the Northville Weavers' Guild.

Mason County's first courthouse is included in White Pine Village, which sits atop a Lake Michigan bluff near Ludington. Other buildings include a post office, town hall and school.

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