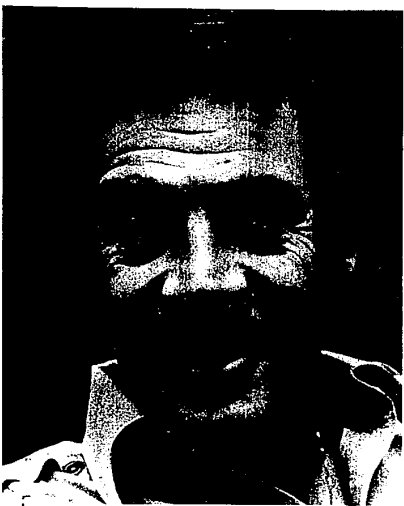


Winter season goes sports



'Chicago' star

Jerry Orbach stars as mouthpiece Billy Flynn in "Chicago," musical vaudeville continuing through New Year's Eve at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit. Performances are at 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, plus a matinee Saturday at 2. (Staff photo by Dick Kelley)

One of the greatest things about winter is Michigan. The state where snow season is go season . . . on skies, snowmobile, dog sled and skates, by sleigh and toboggan or aboard an ice boat . . . all for the fun of it.

And indoors, shows and concerts, sports and events warm the interest and entertain every age and taste, according to the Travel Bureau, Michigan Department of Commerce.

There's high gear going in January on Michigan's snowmobile tracks with the running of the 250 Enduro Snowmobile Race, Jan. 7, at the fairgrounds, Chubbuck; the Motor State Classic III Races, Jan. 14-15, County Fairgrounds, Imlay City; the Thunder Bay 250, Jan. 14, Alpena, and the TC 250, Traverse City, Jan. 28.

On a more recreational note, a good list of good-time activities for snowmobilers and snowmobiling families. The Snow-Fari, Jan. 7, will have trail rides departing from three locations in the Cadillac/Cadillac area with a chili and hot dog lunch and dinner dance in the evening.

A favorite annual outing, the Moose Jaw Safari, is set for Jan. 14, Harbor Springs. At Tawas City, Jan. 20-22, you can join in the Winter Fun and Frolic snowmobile rally. White Cloud will hold its SnoFari 78 Jan. 21, and Baldwin invited snowmobilers to its Snow-In, Jan. 27-28.

SOME FAST ACTION is scheduled for Michigan's ski slopes with the Boyne Mountain Challenge, Boyne Falls, Jan. 7-8; Ski Jumping Tournament, Iron Mountain, Jan. 8; and the Jim Wickham Memorial Ski Race, Jan. 15. Super Kids Ski Race, Jan. 21, and Open Slalom Ski Race, Jan. 23, at Cadillac. For cross-country skiers, a race at Ranch Rudolf, Jan. 28.

"Fun for all" may be a well-worn

Travel

cliche, but it certainly applies to the festive activities on tap for January. The Winter Snow Festival, Jan. 14-15, at Royal Valley, Buchanan, promises crazy slalom racing, inner-tube racing, live entertainment, parade and costume contest topped off by a tasty German dinner.

Tip-Up-Town USA is probably the super star of Michigan's winter festivals. The village springs to life Jan. 21-22 and 28-29 at Houghton Lake. Some of the goings on will be family games with prizes, pony and helicopter rides, sky diving aerial acrobatics, golf on the ice, torch light parades, pie-eating contests and, of course, fishing contests. Snowmobile activities and events will highlight the second weekend's program.

Then there's the annual Winter Carnival at Michigan Tech. University in Houghton, Jan. 29 through Feb. 4. Ice sculpture, skiing events and high jinks are focal points of this popular affair.

Speed skaters will be vying for top honors Jan. 2 at the Farwell Field Speedskating Championships, Detroit. Central Speedskating Championships, Bay City, Jan. 7; in the Diamond Derby, Jan. 8, Saginaw; Northern Michigan Championships, Jan. 21-22, Petoskey and the Michigan Outdoor Speedskating Championships at Alpena, Jan. 28-29.

AND, SLED DOG races are scheduled Jan. 14-15 at Houghton Lake and

Jan. 28-29 at the Iron County Fairgrounds, Alpena.

Indoors, and on a warmer note, the Camper/Trailer Show, Jan. 4-8, Civic Center, Lansing; Michigan International Boat Show, in the Silverdome, Pontiac, Jan. 7-15; and the Sports and Outdoor Show, L.C. Walker Arena, Muskegon, Jan. 31 through Feb. 4.

Some of the special interest shows coming up this month include the antique show, Jan. 6-8, Detroit Plaza Hotel; antiques fair, Jan. 9-14, Somerset Mall, Troy; and antique show, Eastland Mall, Burton, Jan. 19-21. For automotive aficionados, "Autorama," Jan. 6-8, Cobo Hall, Detroit; rod and custom car show, Jan. 27-29, IMA Auditorium, Flint; auto show, Cobo Hall, Detroit, Jan. 14-22; and the rod and custom auto show, Civic Center, Lansing, Jan. 13-15.

On stage, Arthur Fiedler will be the

guest conductor with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Jan. 13 and 15, Ford Auditorium, Detroit. The Civic Theatre, Battle Creek, presents "Never Too Late," Jan. 13-15 and 19-21. The Hungarian Folk Ballet and Gypsy Orchestra will present a captivating performance Jan. 17, at the U of M Power Center for the Performing Arts, Ann Arbor.

The one-of-a-kind voice of Leontyne Price, widely acclaimed soprano, can be heard Jan. 25 in Hill Auditorium, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. And, popular, prolific Peter Nero appears in the Music Hall, Detroit, Jan. 29.

To keep up on all that's happening, write for a free copy of the Michigan Calendar of Travel Events, available from the Travel Bureau, Michigan Department of Commerce, Box 30225, Lansing 48909.

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