

County fairs abound in state

The county fair—like apple pie and baseball—is an American tradition, and Michigan's calendar of events for August lists more than 43 fairs, according to the Travel Bureau of the Michigan Department of Commerce.

Included in the number are the Jackson County Fair and Petunia Festival at Jackson, Aug. 17; Ingham County Fair, Aug. 2-7; Mason the Iowa Fair, largest free fair of its kind, Aug. 6-15; Ionia, the Northern Michigan Fair at Cheboygan and the Western Michigan Fair, Ludwigsburg, Aug. 19-21; Upper Peninsula State Fair, Escanaba, Aug. 17-22; Northwestern Michigan Fair, Traverse City, Aug. 30-Sept. 3; and the Eastern Michigan Fair, Ionia City, Aug. 30-Sept. 6.

America's first State Fair and one of Michigan's biggest events, the Michigan State Fair, opens Aug. 27 for its annual 11-day spectacular encampment at the State Fairgrounds, Detroit. Among the novelties appearing on this year's star-studded roster are the "A Good Times" J.J. Jimmy Walker, Beate Randolph, Freddie Fender and The Little Angels of Korea.

The complete list of fair dates is included in the Michigan Calendar of Travel Events available on request from the Travel Bureau, Michigan Department of Commerce, Lansing, 48911.

More boasts of a different variety will be floated on the Grand River at Grand Haven in the city's annual Venetian Parade, Aug. 28.

One of the north county's favorite log cades characters and by far the greatest lumberjack of them all inspires the Paul Bunyan Festival, Aug. 18-19 at Okocua.

Nothing is impossible during the days of the annual Magic Get Together in Colon. This year's assembly of the world's most talented magicians and aspiring amateurs will be held Aug. 18-21.

On the crafts side of things an Art Fair in Fremont City Park, Aug. 7; the Tawas Bay Waterfront Arts and Crafts Festival, Aug. 5-8; Tawas City, Sea Arts Festival, Aug. 10-11; Sault Ste. Marie's Craft Show at White Cloud, Aug. 13-14; Art On The Asphalt, Aug. 19; Ishpeming, and the Arts and Crafts Fair in Richards Park, Bellevue, Aug. 21.

For those who enjoy yesterday's treasures, try the Antique Auto Show and Swap at Charter Park near Hastings or the Antique Show in Grand Haven, Aug. 19-21.

Historically speaking, the best place to get the biggest helping of Americana any time is Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn. This month the annual Colonial Military Muster re-enacts 18th century military maneuvers with costumed militiamen and authentic weapons of the Revolution, Aug. 29.

In addition, there will be parades, fire and drum music and displays of Colonial crafts, including bi-centennial specialties include "The Struggle and the Glory," Historical Heritage USA and "History of Political Parties in the U.S.," exhibits, the World War Centennial and the Greenfield Village Flavors presentation of "Our American Season" on Fridays and Saturdays, evening at 8:30 p.m.

Baseball, softball, throwed and fast-paced racing and fishing are also on the agenda. To keep on all that's going on in Michigan in August and every month of the year, write for a free copy of the Michigan Calendar of Travel Events available from the Travel Bureau, Michigan Department of Commerce, Lansing, 48911.



BB KING



MARVIN GAYE

KOOL jazz due

The Spinners, the Staple Singers and Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes, three of the top soul groups in the country, will be among the featured artists at this year's Detroit Jazz Fair Festival, Aug. 6 and 7 at Detroit Stadium.

Other superstar performers will be Marvin Gaye, Snarkes, Robinson, Al Green and B.B. King. In all, more than 100 jazz and soul artists will take part in the event with each of the 11 headliners backed by their own individual groups.

For example, Marvin Gaye will be accompanied by a specially formed 40-piece orchestra and Snarkes Robinson will be backed up by 12 singers and musicians. The Staple Singers will debut its new 10-piece back-up group while Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes are adding 11 musicians to their dozen regulars for this opportunity.

To provide extreme with a close-up view of each performer's expressive virtuosity, six giant overhead cameras will be positioned in the stadium to film among the audience. The sound system has also been expanded for a better free listening experience, including a festival stage monitor.

The complete lineup of artists will be:

Friday, Aug. 6, 7:30 p.m.
Marvin Gaye, Snarkes Robinson, Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes, The Staple Singers, The Spinners and Donald Byrd and the Blackbirds.

Saturday, Aug. 7, 1:30 p.m. The Spinners, Al Green, Joe Simon, B.B. King and the Crusaders.

All seats are reserved. Tickets are on sale at J.L. Hoffman's Hotel Service in metropolitan Detroit and at the Detroit Stadium.



SMOKEY ROBINSON



AL GREEN

61 films scheduled for season

Detroit Film Theater will launch its sixth season on the big screen at the Detroit Institute of Arts stadium July 30 through Aug. 1, adding regular Sunday attractions to its established Friday and Saturday evening schedule.

A total of 61 films from 11 countries will be screened in 35 min prints through the end of the season Dec. 18.

DFT program director Elliot Wilhelm will open the season with Jean Renoir's lost masterpiece, "La Chienne" at 7 and 9:30 p.m. July 30. Robert Altman's "Nashville" at 7 and 10 p.m. July 31; and Josef von Sternberg's "Shanghai Express" at 7 and 9:30 p.m. Aug. 1.

Friday evening screenings will continue the policy of showing new films or those which have had minimal commercial exposure in this area, including "Who's That Knocking at My Door," Martin Scorsese's first feature film, and the controversial "Grey Gardens," documentary of Edith Bouvier Beale and her daughter in their decaying East Hampton mansion.

Proven cinema masterpieces are on Saturday's schedule—among them "The Godfather," parts I and II; Luis Bunuel's "The Exterminating Angel"; "Breathless 1960," and Truffaut's "Soleil Océan"; "France 1960." DFT Sunday programming will bring "A Tribute to the Great Hollywood Camera," eight new 35mm prints of Hollywood classics and 10 recent 35mm films from USSR never seen in Detroit before.

For information on discount ticket books and season brochures call 82-778.

How to send news items

Ethel Simmons is entertainment editor for The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. News releases, photos or other information can be mailed to Ms. Simmons at The Observer & Eccentric, 1225 Bowers, Birmingham 48012, or delivered to any office of The Observer & Eccentric. The Birmingham office can be reached by phone at 644-1100.

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