

# Summer exotica awaits vacationers who plan

Whether it's a trip to Austria or a chance to attend the cherry pit spitting contest July 8 in Eau Claire, Farmington area residents will find some exotic ways to while away the summer.

Some are just a stone's throw away—like the Farmington Founder's Festival, scheduled for the last week of July.

Others require planning, stamina and some basic training.

Bruce Trail, on the Bruce Peninsula, Ontario, is the site of some wilderness trips offered by the Farmington Area YMCA, this summer. The trail is moderately easy for hiking, with views of the Georgian Bay from atop the Niagara Escarpment.

Teens can hike every day for a week along the escarpment from Cabot Head to Tobemorey. The 31-mile walk costs \$65 and gets underway June 23.

Families can hike together through Bruce Trail from Tobemorey to Halfway Dump, between July 29 and Aug. 2.

HIKERS will be rewarded with good swimming, fishing and fair game for their cameras at a fee of \$120 per couple and \$50 for each additional walker.

This fee excludes transportation involved in the six-hour drive to the hike site.

Teens and youths can go on a coed hike along Bruce Trail from Aug. 12-16. Fee is \$68. The trip follows a 16.5-mile route along the Niagara Escarpment from Tobemorey to the Halfway Dump camp site. The youths' trip is charted in the opposite direction along the same ground.

Hiking through Austria is made possible by the Farmington Area YMCA from June 18-23. The Wilder Kaiser area behind the city of Kitzbuehl will be the scene of the hike. There will be two nights in Munich and a tour of the Olympic Village. Technical experience is unnecessary for this hike. The fee, \$24, covers transportation, hotels, trip meals, leadership and miscellaneous. Equipment and training sessions will be conducted in May by the Y.

For a trip a little closer to home, the Y is offering a family trip down the Petawawa River, Aug. 5-11. The parent and child canoe trip costs \$22 per couple and \$30 for each additional person. The river is in Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario.

WHITE water experience is unnecessary. Trip fee includes training, trip

food, canoes, paddles and some equipment.

The same river also is available for a teen coed excursion from July 15-22, for a \$185 fee.

If the Adirondack Mountains fare higher on a hiker's list, the Y offers them to teens July 2-8. The trip through the mountains in upper New York will include Mt. Marcy, Mt. Sadleir, Mt. Bald and other peaks. Lake Placid is on the agenda. No experience is necessary. Trip fee includes training, trip food, tents, transportation, lodging and some equipment.

Appalachian trail blazing is offered to teens Aug. 29-30, for a fee of \$55. The trail trip is an additional \$11. Wayah Bald, Silar Bald and the Stone Memorial to John Byrne will be visited. A short tour of the Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory and an optional five-hour raft trip on the Nantahala River has been added to the trip. This year's trip will cover only a short section of last year's journey. Trip fee includes training, trip food, tents, transportation, lodging and some equipment.

For information about the trips, call Dave Heiser at the Y, 553-4020. Training and orientation meetings will be conducted four weeks before departure date. A \$15 Y membership is required for the trips. Before the trip date, new memberships will be accepted.

FOR VACATIONERS who want to stay at home but still enjoy a short trip or two, Michigan is full of summer festivals.

Strawberry fans can stock up on whipped cream and schedule their vacations around the several festivals dedicated to their favorite food.

The International Strawberry Festival will make another appearance May 7, at St. Florian Church, Hamtramck. After that, on June 3, Battle Creek will have its celebration of the fruit in Kimball House Museum. Following close on its heels is the Strawberry Festival of Belleville from June 16-18. And last, but not least, is the Strawberry Festival of Chassell, from July 7-8.

Mushroom lovers will have equal time this summer. The Mesick Mushroom Festival gears up from May 8-14. Not to be outdone, Boyne City has its National Mushroom Festival on May 12-14.

From that more-is-better pastime, travelers can move onto the National Asparagus Festival in Shelby from June 9-10.

May brings the World's Largest

Garage Sale to Cobo Hall, in Detroit. Look at the stuff cities keep in their attic from May 10-11.

Music lovers can look forward to the Cranbrook Music Festival, Christ Church Cranbrook, in Bloomfield Hills, May 11-13.

BIKERS can get in shape for the Wolverine 200, a 24-hour bike marathon, May 20-21, on Belle Isle, Detroit. Liniment, anyone?

If biking around the island isn't the vacationer's favorite exercise, there's always the National Soaring and Hang Gliding Festival, June 30, July 1-4 in Frankfort-Elietta.

Take a break from that festival by hanging around the International Frisbee Tournament, July 1-2, at the Houghton-Hancock Range Snowmobile Club.

By the time July 28-29 rolls around, sportsmen should be in the pink of condition to participate in the Au Sable River Marathon Canoe Race from Grayling to Oscoda.

Less athletically inclined persons can tip-toe through Holland's tulips from May 17-20, when that city has its annual festival.

Art fairs provide some opportunities to stroll and stare. The Dancing Hippopotamus Arts and Crafts Festival will thump into Oscoda's Bearinger Township Hall. Visitors are advised to watch their toes when ogling the art.

Of special interest to local steam engine and threshers, the Michigan Steam Engine and Threshers Reunion is scheduled in Mason from July 29-31. AND FOR vacationers who refuse to drink to any occasion, Holly has its Carry Nation Festival from Sept. 9-10.



## Safety first

In honor of hospital week, the Farmington Area Jaycee Auxiliary has donated two infant bubble tops to the pediatric ward of Betsford Hospital, Farmington Hills. The purchase of the tops, which protect infants from crawling out of their cribs while hospitalized, was made possible from the proceeds of the

auxiliary's rentals of infant car seats to the public. Examining one of the bubbles are, from left, Delilah Tretnik, Juanita Walker, of the pediatric ward, Melodie Halliday and hospital administrator Gerson Cooper. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

## Post office attempts quick mail

Farmington area residents can get overnight mail delivery to more than 500 cities with Express Mail, according to Postmaster Kerzeth B. Harris.

Express Mail became an official class of mail, Oct. 9, according to Harris.

"Locally deposited Express Mail shipments meet our guarantees more than 98 per cent of the time," he said. "But if we don't perform as promised, the entire postage amount can be refunded unless the delay was caused by strike or work stoppage."

Items weighing up to 70 pounds, merchandise insurance up to \$500 and document reconstruction insurance up to \$50,000 are part of Express Mail

service. Letters, merchandise, and business records can be part of a single shipment.

There is no extra charge for letters sent as part of the shipment.

To use the next day service, a customer should take the shipment to an Express Mail post office before 5 p.m. The package will be delivered by 3 p.m. the next day. Or it can be picked up by the recipient by 10 a.m. the next business day.

RESIDENTS can use the Farmington Post Office for the service.

There is also a custom designed service for business mailers with the need for regularly scheduled high

speed delivery, according to Harris.

An agreement between the postal service and the customer, setting the schedule of service between the point of origin and destinations will be arranged before starting delivery.

Service is offered to and from any

combination of customer's premises,

designated post offices and airport mail facilities and is available every day of the year, 24 hours a day, in more than 23,000 communities.

International Express Mail also is available, according to Harris.



## Auction coming up

Patt Bacon and Helen Gammons look over some paintings in Park West Galleries that will be moved to Beechview Elementary School for the PTO's art auction May 19 that begins with a 7:30 p.m. preview in the school gym. Mrs. Gammons is chairman of the show and Mrs. Bacon is president of the sponsoring group that will put 150 pieces of art up on the auction block. Donation at the door is \$1. The school is located at 28840 Westmeath.

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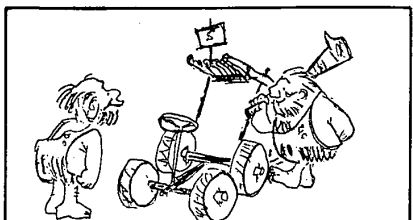
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