

editorial opinion

Tinkering Around

by LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Kathy, Jackson, weddings

There are two events which have marked almost every summer since I left Michigan State University. One of my college friends will decide to get married and another member of the group will seek the sunny climes of California.

Cynics of my acquaintance would say both trips are highly overrated.

But there are still diehard romantics among us who spend their time searching for a storybook view of the Los Angeles skyline at night and who manage a warm smile at the news of an impending marriage.

Right now there are three women in two states who are guilty of that hopeful little smile. I blush to confess but you're reading one of them now.

And all three of us are only too willing to lay the blame on Kathy Huges.

(It's all your fault, Kathy.)

Kathy's getting married Saturday. And although there were times she probably wished that we would shut up and disappear, her three slightly individualistic friends will show up to see her off.

WE FIGURED IT'S the least we could do after we put up with us for four years in college.

Kathy always thought that Jim Sandy and I were a little eccentric. Although I haven't seen her for a couple of years now, I still envision Kathy standing with her hands on her hips, shaking her head at some scheme of ours to her short dark hair bobbed in compliment to her exasperation.

You can't blame her. For she has the misfortune of living in Jackson. We must have told her every prison joke we could fabricate in the four years we saw each other almost daily.

"Jackson," we would begin wickedly. "Isn't that

the place they teach Escape I in high school?"

"Do you have to get your parole papers every time you leave Jackson," we'd crack.

"No, no," Kathy would answer. "Jackson's where the Cascades are."

I'm sure the chamber of commerce there would love her for saying that. Of course, we had to ask what the Cascades were, but Kathy obliged and told us.

It's a fountain with pretty colored lights and lots of water.

Not bad—for Jackson—we'd tease.

POOR OLD Katcha. She had the misfortune to be the only WASP among a group whose names sounded like a Warsaw law firm—Kozerski, Okrutsky and Siemicki.

So, we did the decent thing—we made her an honorary Pole. We figured we got so much fun out of laughing at Jackson because we had at last found some way to retaliate for all those Polack jokes we had to hear.

We really did try to make Kathy an official member of the tribe. We even made out a membership card and bought her a T-shirt emblazoned with a color decal of a Polish falcon.

She was touched. Until the T-shirt's colors faded all over her favorite bra. Then she was peeved and we went back to telling Jackson jokes.

A couple of months ago, I heard through the grapevine that Kathy had decided to get married. Although our little group has gone in four different directions, we manage to pull together for these events. We'll be there.

But we promise not to tell any more Jackson jokes.

At Your Leisure

CONCERTS

Pine Knob Music Theatre presents Dave Mason and Bob Welch at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 4; Paul Anka at 8 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, July 5-8; Natalie Cole at 8 p.m. Sunday, July 9 and Jimmy Buffet at 8 p.m. Monday, July 10. Pine Knob Hotline, 647-7790.

In the Park series of summer programs continues and it features presents Alex Cusmano Jr. and the Wayne State University Folk Dance Club, leading community dancing Thursday, July 6 in Shain Park, Birmingham. Sponsor for the event is the Recycling Center of Birmingham.

Meadow Brook Music Festival at Baldwin Pavilion on Oakland University campus in Rochester presents Virgil Fox with David Snyder's Revelation Lights at 8:30 p.m. Sunday, July 9 and Oscar Peterson and Joe Pass in the third concert in the jazz series at 8:30 p.m. Friday, July 7. The Detroit Symphony Orchestra and the Meadow Brook Festival Chorus will perform Thursday and Saturday, July 6 and 8 at 8:30 p.m. Ticket and program information available from festival office, 377-2010.

Carillon Concert by Rene Van Streeks, city carillonneur of Hasselt, Belgium, at 4 p.m. Sunday, July 9 at Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills. Public may listen to free carillon recital from their cars or the church lawn.

Pastiche Wind Quintet, pioneers of chamber music in pleasant and unique settings present their bill of fare at Jacques Petit Jardin in Birmingham. Perform Sunday through July, at the new branch, 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. Information at 642-3732 or 521-7393.

Hootenanny with Paul Tytschowski, Scott Epping and friends on guitars and mandolins. Common Ground presents the after the Birmingham Bike Chase Hootenanny, Sunday, July 9 at p.m.

Outdoor Concert Series presents the Kings of Dixieland as the second in the series of free summer concerts in Southfield. The music begins at 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 10 at Jaycee Park. For comfort, a lawn chair is recommended. In case of bad weather, Athens auditorium will be used. Call 689-7556 after 4 p.m. Monday for rain-out information.

Concert in the Park free series of nine performances sponsored by City of Southfield begins at 7 p.m. Sunday, July 9 with the Jimmy Wilkins Orch. Concerts outdoors at the Prudential Town Center. Evergreen at Civic Center Drive in Southfield. For more information, call 354-9603.

SHOW TIME

Saturday's Warrior contemporary musical romanticizing the Mormon belief pre-existence, in return engagement at Troy Athens High School. Cast of more than 125, primarily from the metropolitan

Detroit area. Performances at 8:15 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, July 6-8. Ticket information at 675-8774.

A Touch of Spring comedy in lovely Italy by Samuel Taylor in repertory at Will-O-Way Repertory Theatre in Bloomfield Hills. Performances Fridays and Saturdays through July 22. Curtain, 8:30 p.m. Reservations at 644-418.

DINNER THEATRE

The Odd Couple Neil Simon's comedy presented by Nancy Gurwin Productions, Ltd. at the Burn Street (formerly Alvaro's) in Royal Oak. Performances Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 8:30 p.m.; show preceded by sit-down dinner at 7 p.m. Reservations at 549-2420.

Machus Red Fox Revue all-musical production presented by Theatre of the Arts on Saturday and Sunday evenings. Performances of Machus Red Fox in Bloomfield Township. Gourmet dinner theater begins at 7 p.m. with sit-down dinner. Performance featuring memorable melodies of Broadway music in two-man revue at 9 p.m. Reservations at 619-9903.

The Sunshine Boys Neil Simon's Broadway comedy, starring Paul Winter and Robert Casmore, presented by Turgeon and Launes Productions at Somersett Dinner Theatre in the mid-level of Somersett Mall. Performances every Friday and Saturday through July 29. Gourmet buffet by Alfred's restaurant with three entrees. Dinner at 7:30 p.m.; show at 8:45 p.m. For reservations, call 643-8665.

Plaza Suite opening Friday at the Diner Theatre at Sussex House in Southfield. The play by Neil Simon, will be presented Friday and Saturday evenings at 7 p.m. through Aug. 5. The performance, presented by Janus Productions, follows a prime rib dinner. For reservations, call 559-3377.

ON FILM

Summer Film Series at Royal Oak Public Library presents "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp," (1926) directed by Frank Capra, with Harry Langdon and Joan Crawford, at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 6. Also, "Immortal," 1937, with Clark Gable, shown at 6:30 p.m. Both films will be shown in the library auditorium.

CHILDREN'S CHOICE

Cinderella opens Monday, July 10, at the Birmingham Theatre. The Prince Street Players will present the musical production at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Monster Movie Madness at Cinema I and II at Pontiac Mall opens Wednesday, July 5 at 10:30 a.m. with the original release of "Frankenstein." Children can dress up, enter monster contest and meet Frankenstein in person. Monster Movie Madness Month is sponsored by Pontiac Mall Merchants Association with Cinema I and II theaters. Tickets go on sale at 10 a.m.

Summer Storytime begins at

Bloomfield Township Public Library from 2:245 p.m. every Thursday in July. Children ages 4-8 will be welcomed to "Devil's Tower" in the Green Room for stories, music, games and crafts.

Summer Reading Club at Bloomfield Township Public Library announces "Close Encounters of the Best Kind—Books," open to all children in grades Kindergarten through ninth. Register anytime until Aug. 19 at Youth Room at library.

Puppet Workshops registration for the session begins Wednesday, July 5 at the Bloomfield Township Public Library. Children 10 years and older will make puppets and join in the writing and producing of a play. Workshops are held every Monday and Wednesday at 2 p.m., July 31-Aug. 23. The play will be presented Aug. 25. Pre-registration is necessary. For information, call 642-8600.

Beach Workshop registration begins Wednesday at the Bloomfield Township Public Library. Children will learn to design and make jewelry at the workshop. Tuesday, July 18; 10:30 a.m. noon for grades kindergarten through fourth; 2:30-4 p.m. for grades four and older. Pre-registration necessary.

Summer Reading Club at Troy Public Library, open to all young Troy residents ages three through 13. The theme is "Thomas Rockwell's hilarious story, 'How to Eat Fried Worms.'"

Wilderness Adventure registration begins Thursday for the session for 10-12-year-olds at 7 p.m. The Avon Township Public Library sponsors the hike through Rochester Park to Dinosaur in Nature Preserve with an interpretive naturalist. The walk begins at 9:30 a.m.

Summer Workshops for children ages four to seven, and their parents, will be offered by the Avon Township Public Library July 14, 10-11 a.m. and 2-3 p.m. Construction of a variety of hand puppets from household materials will be shown. Registration begins Monday, July 3.

AT THE MAIL

Cat-O-Rama at Tel-Twelve Mall, Southfield, Sunday, July 9 will feature competition between 27 categories of felines from noon to 5 p.m. The Oakland County Cooperative Extension Service 4-H Program, a branch of Michigan State University extension service, is sponsoring the event. Entries limited to the first 50 felines registered. For further information, call 582-0890 or 687-9445.

Pastiche Wind Quintet in concert every Monday 7:30 p.m. at Somersett Mall. Repertoire embraces the classics, chamber, contemporary and even a little jazz from time to time.

Open Air Flea Market at Grand River Drive in Farmington Hills from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each Saturday.

Margaret Valpey in Person on-camera show of mix-media sculptures continues through Saturday at Somerset Mall, Troy.

Summer Storytime begins at



Why not a Stutz today?

The transition from horse and buggy to Stutz Bearcat must have been easier than learning to operate all the bewildering gadgets on late model cars.

Plots are given a course in reading and operating the complicated instrument panel in an airplane. What's a poor helpless female to do when she launches her new car without an instructor? You start off with a handicap when you buy a car, it warns you, "Don't wreck the new car."

Smiling through clenched teeth, you reply, "How did you guess that's exactly what I was planning to do?" The car would look much better with a few dimples in it. If you don't like the way I drive, you should have bought me a Schwinn with training wheels."

Your spouse neglected to tell you the new car has shock absorbers behind the bumpers like those used on aircraft landing gears. The grill moves so it clears the bumper as it is driven backward by the force of a crash. So what's there to worry about?

You climb into the front seat which is pushed so far back you need leg stretchers to reach the pedal. In the old car, you had only to reach alongside the seat and push a lever to get you closer to the steering wheel.

WHO WOULD think of looking at the door panel where there are seven different buttons to figure out? Finding the ignition is no big hassle once you've found the right key.

You're off and running when suddenly you hear a deafening buzz, and you're sure you gummed up the works. Two blocks later, you discover that a warning signal means "fasten your seat belt."

The only trouble is you can't find the darned thing and you stop in the middle of the street, cursing Ralph Nader. The left half of the belt is stuck in the door. You try desperately to disengage it, wondering if you've gained weight because it doesn't fit around your middle.

This was a few years ago, but things will get worse if they haven't already. You won't be able to start the darn car without buckling up.

If you happen to park somewhere and turn off the ignition, you'll have to climb out of the car in order to restart the cycle. A person could catch pneumonia on a wintry day.

In the summer, it's stifling in the car. It's no

easy task figuring out how to operate the air conditioner. Instead, you pick one of seven buttons to push in order to open the window.

WITH FOUR levers to open the windows, you invariably find yourself airing out the back seat or locking all the doors or hoping it doesn't rain so you won't have to search for the windshield wiper button.

There's another button which adjusts the mirror, but you're not sure where the danged lever is. There's even a push button in the glove compartment which opens the trunk and makes it easier on car thieves.

Forget the cruise control. It's tough enough to drive the car with your foot on the pedal. But there is one dandy little item you couldn't possibly do without. It's a clock in the back seat.

It could come in handy if your husband is making out with his secretary in the rear of the car and he wants to see when it's time to come home.

If you've never had stereo in your car before, you're in for a treat. When the stereo is tuned to the back—if you happen to accidentally find how to turn it on—it sounds like a man is talking to you back there and you're scared out of your wits. Discovering how to turn it off is a whole frantic experience.

By this time, you're a nervous wreck. You expect any minute to push a button and fly out of the car, seat belt and all. If you've ruined your new manicure trying to buckle up, you're still cursing Nader for being a male chauvinist.

If you remember to stop for gas, and the attendant asks you what brand of oil you use, you may reply "Mazola or Wesson." By now you're convinced car manufacturers, your husband, Nader and the gas station attendants are working day and night to drive women helplessly mad.

Some day, your car will be operated by computer as you sit back, relax in your inflatable cushion and seat belt, watch your favorite TV soap opera and gaze at the clock in the rear.

I'll drink to that day, since driving will be left to the computer. Police won't be able to arrest you for operating a vehicle under the influence of liquor. I don't know about operating computers under the influence.

I do know computers can't take breathalyzer tests, but that won't matter because I don't think they'll be able to get the window open either.

Equality — the time is now



"All men are created equal and are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights..."

Thomas Jefferson had a lot of editors when he wrote those words in the Declaration of Independence 202 years ago, but not one was offended by the word "men."

Give any editor a draft of the declaration today and he'd know instantly that a lot of grief could have been avoided had Thomas J. said "all persons."

The question of the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment has been prominent now for a very long time. For many women, and other feminists too, it is near the top of their consciousness.

It is required by the U.S. Constitution that 38 states ratify any proposed amendment. As it now stands, three more states must put their stamp of approval on the ERA to make it the law of the land.

Simply stated, the ERA says that there shall be no discrimination for reason of sex in American life. Simply applied it means that women and men shall be equally paid for equal work, shall have equal opportunity and that the weight of the law shall come down equally on each citizen whatever their gender.

TOMORROW we celebrate the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, a document which, along with the U.S. Constitution, has stood the test of time remarkably well.

But time marches on and the need for ERA is acknowledged widely by thoughtful people of both sexes. The woman's movement has come of age in the past decade or so and it is ERA's ratification that will crown the gains achieved.

Three more states seem a simple achievement, but ERA watchers know what a tough battle they are in. Therefore, they are crying for an extension of seven years to assure the measure's ratification.

Critics who say giving ERA seven more years is changing the rules in the middle of the game don't also admit that there is no precedent for revision. It simply doesn't exist. The Constitution gives state legislatures the right to ratify or disapprove amendments, but not the right to rescind. So that's a new rule the other side would like to see adopted.

When we light those firecrackers or barbecue those chickens in the name of independence and equality, we'll be celebrating a 202 year old version of same. Those that want to write a new chapter will take to the buses, planes and cars to get to Washington, D.C. to mount a march for ERA and for the extension.

THOUSANDS of ERA supporters are expected to take to the Washington pavement to show their solidarity.

"We envision a spectacular event that will stir the emotions of those who value human dignity and justice for all," said Eleanor Smeal, president of the National Organization of Women.

Women of Oakland county will take part in this march in large numbers. Although the Michigan legislature has passed ERA and there seems little danger of rescinding it here no matter what may occur, they are determined to be counted.

For them there is no question but what they would have edited Thomas J.'s treatise and substituted "all persons."

Farmington Observer

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