His hobby has its own museum

Illinois Bell building.

revolving tu

The heartbeat of the collection is beyond the glass and steel in the phones that grace the walls and the revolving turnstiles inside.

There are magneto wall phones with

People can tell your age easily in the Oliver Parks Telephone Museum in Springfield, III. The older a person is, the more likely he or she is to say, "Hey, I had a telephone like that once."

A visit to the museum at the right time will net a traveller a glance of old Mack Parsh himself, the retired telephone lineman who collected these phones and startled everyone at Illinois Bell by walking in off the street one day to offer his collection to the company.

Parks began this hobby in 1949, when he took his telephone truck into a service station for repair and saw a dusty old telephone sitting on a shelf.

"What's that?" he asked.

The woman behind the counter said it was just an old telephone she and her husband had inherited along with the service station.

"Some dummy will give us \$10 for it some day," she said.

Parks, no dummy, did. The phone was an 1898 Stromberg Carlson desk set, now worth more than \$1,000.

Parks' collection began to grow when he retired in 1962. The tele-phones eventually took over the walls of his house. There were telephones above his furniture, up his stairway

He especially loved to show them off to his grandchildren, who renamed them for their favorite telephone heroes. One day it occurred to Parks that other people's grandchildren might also like to see the telephones.

A public relations official at Illinois Bell remembers very clearly the day that Parks walked into his office and tried to give away his valuable tele-phone collection.

"People don't just walk in off the street and give away a collection of old telephones," he said. "But that's exactly what Mack Parisk oid, and he left us in a dilemma."

When the company finally accepted the collection, it didn't know how to repay Parks. He wouldn't take money. How can a big computerized company take a gift like that from a man of ordinary means?

So they named the museum the Oli-ver Parks Tidephone Museum. For Parks, this was payment enough. Of course, items are always neatened up when they pass from real life into his-tory, so the collection doesn't look quite as it did on Parks' wall in Deca-tur, Ill.

The phones in the Parks Museum are all dressed up in a 900-square-foot, glass-walled room at the corner of Seventh and Edwards Street in Springfield, at the entrance to the He (Parks) especially loved to show them off to his grand-children. . One day it occurred to him that other people's grand-children might also like to see the telenhones.

handles, a radio phone of the 1930s, phones with bell-shaped receivers, old wooden wall phones of the early 1900s, and a private branch exchange where operators once said "number please."

The museum's location is an unex-pected bonus for most travelers to Springfield, because it sets practically in the heart of the touris sites related to Abraham Lincoln's life.

Within a few minutes walk, one is on the street where Lincoln and his fam-ily lived when he became president. The area, designated an historical dis-trict, contains the Lincoln house, one of the few restored homes honest enough to have an outhouse in the back garden.

Walk another few blocks and you can climb the steps to Lincoln's law office, which has also been kept in its 19th century condition.

Across the street from the law office is the Old State Capital, once the cen-ter of political, social and cultural life in Springfield. One of the early drafts of the Gettysburg Address is kept under glass there.

Upon completing the brief walking tour around this small area of old Springfield, and you find yourself back at the Oliver P. Parks Telephone Misseum, there is one other surprise to be found. Directly across the street from the museum is the new National Park Service Visitors Center to help you put all of this history into perspective.



There were telephones above his furniture, up his stairway and between his windows.



It's half-past Saturday, airplane time, here over the Middle East, and my body doesn't like it. In 16 hours, we have flown through 9½ time zones, los-ing 9½ hours, an afternoon and the middle of a night.

ing 9% hours, an aftermoon and the middle of a night. Twe eaten breaklast at midnight and lunch at dawn. If you think 1'm confused, you should see the man who is trying to take pills three times a day. We learned in school that we set our clocks by the sun-it being moon when the sun is overhead and midnight when the suns is on the other side of the world. Track with me through this time schedule and you will see why my internal clock is confused: 9 p.m. Seturday, Eastern Standard Time. Detroit time. It is derk. Air India Tight 111 leaves London on the first leg of the New York to Dehhi trip. 10 p.m. Detroit time. Ocktails. 11 p.m. Dianer.

Midnight. Inflight movie, "The Turning Point." 2:30 a.m. Movie ends. It is obviously the middle of the right and time to sleep, but open the blinds and the sun is shining brightly. It's 2:30 a.m. Detroit time but 7:30

a.m. London time, and we are getting ready to land. Time to rouse oneself, they're serving breakfast. The problem is we haven't yet been to bed.

3:30 a.m. Detroit time. It's 8:30 a.m. in London, and

we are landing. 6 a.m. Detroit time. It is 11 a.m. as we leave London for India, and we are preparing for a big lunch. Cock-tails madam?

7 a.m. Detroit time—noon over the continent. Lunch consists of salad, meat, rice, vegetables, dessert and wine. My body is saying "What's going on here?" 9 a.m. Detroit time. It's midatternoon over the Middle East and time for another movie. E

II a.m. Detroit time: We open the blinds again after the movie and see that it is dark. We have flown into night. Somewhere over Earth, I have lost a night and an atternoon. My clock is spinning its wheels, and my stom-ach is afraid that they are about to serve me another

2:30 p.m. Detroit time: the midnight bells are tolling

and we are about to land in Delhi, capital city of India. I am flying with members of the Society of American Travel Writers who live east of the Mississippi. Those who live west of the big river are flying the other way around the world out of Los Angeles.

They, too, lose track of meal times and a day, some-where over the Pacific. Does anybody know what time it is?

BITS AND PIECES: If you would like to take a trip to otter space, the Southfield Community Education Pro-gram is sponsoring one to the Michigan Space Center Saturday.

A bus will leave Adler Elementary School at 12:30 pm. for the center in Jackson. The fee, which includes bas, admission licket and snack, is \$4 for students and \$5 for adults. A family rate of \$3 person applies to family groups of three or more. For information, call the South-field public schools at \$34500. If you are planning a trip around Michigan this fall, tie

It into one of the state's many fall festivals. The Niles apple festival and Red Flannel Day in Cedar Springs are past, but there still is time for the color cruise on Lake Charlevoix Saturday.

Many areas of the state also have guided color tours such as those offered from the town of Gladwin Saturday and Sunday.

The Coldwater Historic Homes Tour offers a variety of 19th century architecture and a shuttle service by the Antique Car Club Sunday.

Antique Car Cuto Stumay. For a full listing of travel events for October, write thé Méhigan Department of Commerce in Lansing. If your idea of fun is staying closer to home, try this small travel idea offered by the Farmington Community Center, Frank Angelo's Detroit, a tour of the Motor City, that includes unch at the Detroit Press Club, will be led-by the popular columnist. Tuesday, Oct. 17. The bus lawse Kendlawod Center at 9 a.m. and the charge is \$17 a person.

Around the state

In Michigan, there always is something to do, somewhere to go to keep mind and body from becoming atophied. If tours are the thing, then consider the following: Auto plant tour-call Ford Motor Co. in Destr-born. 322-0034; General Motors in Detroit, 556-6444, Holland, Mich., is the site of two wooden shoe manufacturers-Deklomp Wooden Shoe and Delf Factory, 1-168-562232; Wooden Shoe Factory, 1-68-56-513. Cedar Springs sports a factory where pajamas,

olo.sob6313. Cedar Springs sports a factory where pajamas, Mog johns and other fire-engine-red apparel take stape-Red Flannel Factory, 1-616-695-9240. Carling Brewery in Frankenmuth—1-517-652-6161, ext. 42.

Gil, ett. 42. Ströh Brewery, Detroit-S61580. Wineriss offering free samples along with tours: Lakeside Winery, near Harbert, 1-616-642-000; Tabor Hill Wardra, near Harlford, 1-616-622-Höl; Bronte Winery, near Harlford, 1-616-622-Höl; Bronte Winery, near Harlford, 1-616-622-Hen Valley Vineyards, near Fennville, 1-616-622-Z369; the following three near Paw Paw Warner Vineyards 1-616-573-163; S. J. Julian Wine Co., 1-616-637-5563; Prontenac Vineyards 1-616-575-531. Alter following the brewery and vineyard route, head to Kalamazoo where a free sample of vita-ming goes to adults who tour the Upjohn Co. phar-maceuticals plant, 1-616-523-5666.



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November 30, 1978 and Returns December 15, 1978 Cost per person is \$899 (based on double occupancy). You may join the four by sending a \$25.00 deposit to secure your place on our program. Space is limited, so gat your deposit in activ. For further information call our travel desk and we will send you a color brochure.

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This four is co t in cooperation with Hamilton, Miller, Hudson & Fayne Travel Corporation of Southfield.



Has anyone found a missing day?