

# Getting Around

By ETHEL SIMMONS



The Michigan Opera Theater, ever aware of its public, will sponsor its second annual Pub Crawl on Thursday, May 17.

For \$3, participants will receive a big Pub Crawl button and free passage on the Suda Express, which will depart from the Music Hall and stop at one of 17 participating pubs in downtown Detroit.

Each pub will feature food, drink and free entertainment. Participants are not expected to take in all 17 pubs, but buses will circulate throughout the evening to pick up Pub Crawlers and take them on to other pubs.

One wag gaped, with delight, "This is the most organized pub crawl I've ever heard of!"

If you've been away from downtown Detroit, you'll find this a good way to sample the city's night life. Benefitting the Michigan Opera Theater, the Pub Crawl will attract many opera devotees and patrons of Michigan Opera Theater.

The Pub Crawl is expected to appeal to "singles, couples, people in their 20s and on up, opera lovers and others (as it did last year)," according to Michigan Opera Theater "pub" licist Blanche Robinson.

"By the third pub, everyone is friends," she said. Roberta Starkweather of Franklin Village is president of the Michigan Opera Theater's Michigan Opera Guild, which sponsors the Pub Crawl as an annual fund raiser.

One suggestion Michigan Opera Theater makes is that crawlers view the evening as a progressive dinner, with an aperitif and appetizer at the first stop, entree at the second, and dessert and after-dinner drink at a third. A per-

centage from the food and drinks goes to the Michigan Opera Theater. T-shirts (at \$5) also are available in advance by calling the Music Hall. Or you can pick one up at the Music Hall or one of the participating pubs on the night of the Pub Crawl.

To go on the Pub Crawl, make advance reservations by calling the Music Hall box office at 963-3717 (both tickets and T-shirts can be charged with major credit cards).

Last-minute plans can be accommodated for Pub Crawlers who just want to show up the night of the event and buy their buttons at the Music Hall or one of the pubs.

The Pub Crawl runs till midnight — if you last that long. There's no cover charge at any of the participating taverns.

Among them are the Grecian Gardens, with a bouzouki player and belly dancer; Woodbridge Tavern, a piano sing-along; Old Shillelagh, Irish band; Rhinoceros, supper club piano bar; La Cave, disco and New Orleans jazz.

Others pubs are Cobb's Corner, jazz; New Miami, bluesgrass and rock; Union Street, jazz; the Gnome, belly dancer; Cafe Harmonie, dulcimer; Clementine's Kitchen, woodwinds, opera and mime group; and Porter Street Station, disco.

Still more are Song Shop Saloon, Franklin Street East, Rembrandt's Roadster and the Bull Market.

Merriment aboard the buses will include Michigan Opera Theater chorus members leading sing-alongs. At the various taverns, Pub Crawlers will be rounded up periodically, to whisk them along to the next stop.

Dr. David DiChicco of Bloomfield Hills is general director of Michigan Opera Theater, which he has nursed

# Pub Crawl begins on Suda Express



Three thousand balloons were released last week in Detroit's Harmonie Park, each balloon with a tag good for a free Pub Crawl button.

From inception to its present nationally recognized status. Robert M. Heuer is managing director.

MARK RIDLEY's Comedy Castle is on the move, opening tonight in a new location at Friday's Olde World Cafe in West Bloomfield.

The showcase for comics had been drawing crowds to the downstairs lounge at the Meeting Place in Orchard Lake, where Comedy Castle opened January 4.

"We needed the room," said Ridley, explaining the move. The Olde World Cafe setting has about 130 seats and a better staging area, according to Ridley. "We had complaints before," he said, "The other was an L-shaped room. This way everybody can see."

Newcomer comics perform from 8:30 p.m.-1 a.m. Thursdays-Saturdays at the Comedy Castle. "We are starting to get into a whole new batch of comedy. Two of our comics — Bill Thomas and Tony Hayes — just moved to Los Angeles. They developed their routines with us, and built up confidence."

Another of the regulars at Comedy Castle is Ron Kruman, who made his first on-stage appearance there a few months ago. Said Ridley, "He really has come quite a long way. He's getting a very good response from the audience."

Kruman works in Birmingham. Other new comics who have joined the lineup are Tim Allen, who lives and works in Birmingham; Sheila Kay, who lives and works in Southfield; and Doug Dettar, who lives in the Oak Park area.

There's a \$3 cover charge at the Olde World Cafe. "I think I have the best nights," Ridley said. "A lot of the comic who work here work at Roberta's and Delta Lady on their off nights."

THIS WEEK Joe Nipote of Southfield, who is now a regular at the Comedy Store in Los Angeles, will play at the Comedy Castle. Nipote performed at the Comedy Castle with Mike Binder, when the young comic who is originally from Birmingham appeared there last winter.

Mike Binder will be returning to the local showcase for two shows a night Wednesday-Saturday, May 30-June 2. Binder wants to come back home that weekend to celebrate his 21st birthday.

Ridley said the bigger room will "alleviate hassles. We turned away a lot of people when Mike Binder played the Comedy Castle before. This time we will have good seats and we will have reservations."

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