

Thursday, June 28, 1979

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Joe Williams, 77-year-old biker who rode 75 miles on his 75th birthday, and Gyanne Kell, American Youth Hostels office manager, both of Birmingham, look forward to the Bikelang.

Bikers get together in downtown Detroit

By JULIE BROWN

Collapsing in a backyard hammock with a cold drink may sound like an ideal way to spend the Fourth of July, but harder souls have another option. The Metropolitan Detroit Council of American Youth Hostels (AYH) will hold its first Freedom Festival Bikelang, a 15-mile tour of downtown Detroit.

"It's an opportunity to see what Detroit is all about," said Gyanne Kell of Birmingham, AYH office manager in Berkley. "It has become much improved."

The bikers will meet at Detroit's municipal parking structure at Bagley and Second. More adventurous riders from the northern suburbs may begin the ride at Seven Mile and Woodward in Detroit at 8 a.m. or Normandy and Crooks in Royal Oak at 7:30 a.m.

"THERE WILL BE bike riders that start from these locations going to the Ren Cen," Ms. Kell said. Joe Williams, 77, of Birmingham, will participate in the ride. "I think they want me to go to the Ren Cen

because when I was 75, I rode 75 miles (on my birthday)," he said.

"I have a motto," he said. "Reach for your bike instead of your car keys. Being an engineer, I have much more respect for where our kids are going to go."

Williams said he bikes down Woodward from Birmingham to Belle Isle for the bike rides held there.

BIKERS PARTICIPATING in the AYH will be able to park their cars at Bagley and Second. Registered riders will receive colored vests, maps and tour information.

The tour will include such sights as the Renaissance Center, Hart Plaza, Greektown, the Attie Theater, Eastern Market, the Medical Center, and Wayne State University's campus. There will be police stationed along the bike route, and the Red Cross will provide a first aid station.

"There will be police on motorcycles and on bikes," Ms. Kell said. "About six of them will be riding around in Keyside Cops uniforms." "Traffic won't be blocked off, but the route will be well marked," she said. "There shouldn't be all that many people downtown, because of it being the Fourth of July."

Ms. Kell said that as many as 2,000-3,000 people may participate in the tour.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION may be made at American Youth Hostels, Room 3, 3024 Coolidge, Berkley 48072. The fee is \$2 for adults and \$1 for youths under 18, with a maximum of \$4 per family. Registration on July 4 will take place at the tour's starting point at Bagley and Second.

"We're encouraging groups and families to ride," Ms. Kell said. "We'll ride no matter what the weather is."

For further information, call AYH at 545-0511.



Barbara Rising, executive director of American Youth Hostels, Inc., and Bob Clubb, recreation coordinator, employee services department, at Ford Tractor in Troy, are other avid bikers.

Charles Green captivates crowd

By JIM WINDELL

Piper's Alley in Troy considers Charles Green so important to its success that the restaurant threw an anniversary party for him Sunday.

Green and his quartet have played at Piper's Alley for one year and owner Michael Kuckelman couldn't be happier about the association.

"There is not enough good jazz around, and Charles Green plays a good New York style of jazz piano," Kuckelman says.

Every Sunday night at 9 p.m., Green plugs in his electric keyboard and with his sidemen — sax man Kaman Kenyetta, bassist Duke Billingslea and drummer Bob Welch — crisscross waves of perpetually captivating jazz.

The tunes are lengthy, and Green's keyboard leads the way for the group to meld its sound into funky grooves. The arrangements always demand attention, because the listener never knows for sure if the tune is ending, or if Green is going to toss in a line from another jazz tune, or if the quartet in front of the furious, double-time beat of Welch is revving up for 10 more minutes of solos.

THE MAIN MAN behind this quartet is 29-year-old Charles Green. He is

'I've developed my own style of music. From listening to the right piano players and doing it myself. I appreciate my style more because I know that whatever degree of success I've attained locally has been on my own efforts.'

— Jazz pianist Charles Green

no ordinary jazz musician. His favorite author is Kurt Vonnegut and he admits to being anglophile. By day he works in his mother's pharmacy in the Detroit Medical Center "for lack of something better to do," and at night he becomes a jazz musician.

Leaning over his keyboard at Piper's Alley, he has a burning cigarette just sticking straight out of his mouth. He looks intense and nervous as he begins a set, but as the ideas come, he frequently breaks into a grin and a self-congratulatory, "Aha."

After a 45-minute set, he is still confident but has a gentle, quiet manner. "I'm the black sheep of the family," he says, smiling. "Everyone else in my family has a master's degree except me."

His brother is an architect, his father a real estate broker and his mother, who provided the most vocal opposition

to his choice of careers, has been a registered pharmacist for 30 years.

His mother wanted him to be a concert pianist or a surgeon. By the time he was 12 or 13 he knew he wanted to be a musician. But not the kind his mother would have preferred.

"I had studied classical piano from age 5 until about 12 at the Detroit Institute of Music and the Detroit Conservatory of Music. But my brother said to listen to jazz and so I listened. I liked what I heard, and that's all I wanted to do after that."

EDUCATION IS important in the Green family, so after Central High School, where he played viols in the stage band, he went on to the University of Detroit.

"I had planned on majoring in music," (Continued on page 2D)

Meadow Brook's jazz starting its best season

By MARK E. GALLO

Meadow Brook Music Festival's new managing director, Stuart Hyke, has made his presence conspicuous in a very positive way. Not content with mere physical changes, such as adding beautiful floral settings on either side of the stage, Hyke has more importantly tackled the musical offerings.

The Friday night "Jazz Series" is the best package in recent memory, with eight shows sandwiched nicely between the series' opener and the closing offering of Count Basie and Oscar Peterson on Aug. 7.

Lionel Hampton's All-Star Band couldn't have been a more appropriate beginning for the 16th season at Oakland University's Baldwin Pavilion. Opening the bill was the grand dame of jazz piano Marian McPartland, accompanied by Steve LaSpina, a young bassist comparable to Ray Brown or Niels Pedersen. Ms. McPartland charmed and dazzled the audience on an unseasonably chilly summer eve with familiar jazz and pop standards.

ELEGANTLY ATTIRED in a flowing blue chiffon gown, her demeanor was anything but formal. Her feet never ceased their lively tapping and her constant grin broke often into a chuckle of amusement at her young accompanist.

Their faultless performance included such chestnuts as "There Is No Greater

Love," "Willow Weep for Me" and "You and the Night and the Music," which she dedicated to the audience. The closer was a real oldie, originally taught to her by her first husband, dixie cornetist Jimmy McPartland. "Royal Garden Blues" has probably received no more royal treatment.

Where Ms. McPartland was subtle in her intensity and gregarious with her audience, Lionel Hampton did not in tone any of his songs and only a few of his great musicians, but there was no subtlety about his swing.

The audience warmed instantly to songs like "Sweethearts on Parade," the tender "Fools Rush In" played with just the rhythm section, and the inevitable "Flyin' Home." The band was up to every challenge, which is amazing when you consider that a number of the members are older than 50 and many are in their 60s.

Wild Bill Davis was on piano, master technician Grady Tate commanded the drum kit, the sax section had the great Arnett Cobb, Cecil Payne and Eddie Wilkins. Detroit's own Curtis Fuller played bass trombone, and the great Doc Cheatham was in the trumpet section.

HAMPTON SHOULD have made everyone more aware of what a prized slice of musical history we were being treated to; knowing names or not though, it was more than apparent that this was an all-star band.

Review

Hampton spent much of his time dittoing across the stage, stopping for a few minutes at the viols or drums, but mostly shouting his encouragement to band members and bantering with the audience with his shouted "hey's" and "ho's." He only cut loose a few times on the vibraphone and did a great piano duet with Davis, taking the top and giving Davis the bass register.

A little strobe-lighted drum solo served as a barometer of where the man stands musically these days. After all, it has always been Hampton's forte to be a showman first and foremost. It also must be borne in mind that he is a night older than the incredible blurred flurry with Benny Goodman on the late show.

The closing number — Glenn Miller's "In the Mood" — brought down the house, with the diaphanous fans rising instantly to their feet. Many people, either driven out by the cold or in a rush to beat the parking lot traffic, got up to leave a few songs before the end of the show. That was their loss.

If this opening concert is any indication of what's to come, the series should prove to be a record-breaker on the campus near Rochester.

Starting today (Thursday, June 28), tickets are on sale at the box office of the Birmingham Theatre. Nederlander Theatrical Enterprises, which operates Detroit's Fisher Theatre and Pine Knob in Clarkston, recently leased the Birmingham Theatre.

Box office hours at the Birmingham are noon-8 p.m. daily except Sunday. Tickets will be sold for all attractions still available through Aug. 16, when Perry Como appears at Pine Knob.

This week and next, stars appearing at the outdoor music theater include Sammy Davis, Jr., through Friday, June 28; Harry Chapin, Saturday, June 30-Sunday, July 1; Frank Sinatra, Monday-Tuesday, July 2-3; and the Beach Boys, Wednesday, July 4-Saturday, July 7.

Other big names coming to Pine Knob include James Taylor, Shaun Cassidy, George Benson, the Doobie Brothers, Donna Summer, Paul Anka, Harry Belafonte, Chuck Mangione, Foreigner and Charles Amour and Jane Oliver. Pine Knob tickets still may be purchased at the Fisher Theatre, the Harmony House at Tel-Twelve Mall in Southfield, and Pine Knob. Vouchers (exchangeable for tickets at the music theater) also may be purchased at nine other Harmony House record stops.

YOUNG MUSICIAN Tim Smith of Orchard Lake will open a two-weekend stay, Thursday-Saturday, July 5-7 and 12-14, at the Down Under lounge downstairs at the Meeting Place in Orchard Lake.

Smith will be playing piano and singing songs, about a third of the material his own compositions.

"I like Bob Dylan a lot," said Smith. "I like that kind of lyrical content. I'd like to find a way to bring rock 'n' roll and classical music together."

Smith also is playing organ at Our Lady of Refuge Church in Orchard Lake, while he is home during the summer. He just finished his freshman year studying music composition at Michigan State University.

He performed at the Olde World in East Lansing during the last month of the school year and will play there again when he returns to MSU in the fall.

Smith has a local following of fans who used to come see him when he played at the Steak and Ale in Farmington last year.

WE'D LIKE to hear from you. A new feature, hopefully, of the Entertainment pages, will be "Intermission," in which we ask readers to write and give us their opinions.

Last week we asked the question, When dining out, do you automatically tip a certain percentage of the bill, or base the tip on the quality of service received? Do you feel forced into tipping at least 15 percent regardless of the quality of service?

There's still time to get a letter into the mail. Keep your comments brief, if you wish, and sign your name (it won't be used if you so specify).

We want to give you a chance to respond, and to hear other opinions on topics about the world of dining and entertainment. It's just for fun, but please write to: Intermission, The Observer & Eccentric, 1225 Bowers, Birmingham 48012.

Getting Around

By ETHEL SIMMONS

Coffee-klatching "housewives" gathered around a television set Monday morning in Bloomfield Village to watch the soap opera "The Edge of Night."

They were there as guests of Margaret Schuberger, whose husband George even stayed around the house for the occasion. More than just idle TV viewers, the group had gathered to watch the Schuberger's son-in-law Stephen McNaughton in his new role on the ABC-TV series.

They were on the edge of their seats when McNaughton, whose real name is Stephen Robert Scott, appeared. In the show, he was sitting around the breakfast table with his father and his gorgeous step-sister.

As the character, Brian Madison, he had just returned from the Navy to rejoin his family and get involved in their problems, which included step-sister Faigle's ties to a radical fringe group.

IT'S A TAKEOFF on the Patty Hearst story. That's what Stephen told me, Mrs. Schuberger explained. When the credits rolled at the end of the show, everyone watched excitedly to see McNaughton's name come up on the screen.

"I was going to give everyone a box of Tide as a joke," Mrs. Schuberger said. She was surprised to find the sponsor of "Edge of Night" actually is Tide detergent.

The Schuberger's daughter, Susan Elizabeth Scott, is an actress and McNaughton's wife. She played at Meadow Brook Theatre seven years ago in "The Boyfriend" and has played many other roles before and since. She started at age 8 performing with Pat O'Brien at the Cherry County Playhouse in Traverse City. She will be playing Fanny Brice in "Fanny Girl" opposite John Erickson and with Selma Diamond in Akron, Ohio, this summer.

SHE WAS ON BROADWAY with Imogene Coca in the musical hit "On the Twentieth Century," as swing girl, or understudy, for all the leads in the show.

Susan Scott is now playing in "Damn Yankees" in the largest dinner theater in New York, which seats 1,000 diners, plus 500 more persons for the show.

McNaughton's Broadway credits include "Sensational," "Da" and "The Ritz." He is now starring in "The Greatest Little Whorehouse in Texas," which won two Tony awards.

Video soap opera has personal touch

The show will be coming to Detroit's Fisher Theatre in the fall, but McNaughton won't be traveling here. He's signed a two-year contract with "The Edge of Night."

"WITHIN THE WOODS," a 35-minute horror movie will be shown for the first time at 7:30 and 8:30 tonight (Thursday, June 28) at the Groves High School Little Theatre in Beverly Hills. Sam Rami of Franklin is a 19-year-old film maker who has put the show together with friends Rob Tapert of Grosse Pointe, the producer, and Bruce Campbell of West Bloomfield, who stars as the monster.

The trio has filmed "Within the Woods" hoping to attract investors for a full-length version called "Book of the Dead." Rami said the screenplay has been finished for the feature film.

Rami, who went to Birmingham's Groves High School, was a humanities major at Michigan State University for two years. "I took off most of the recent time to work on this film," he said. "My whole goal now is to make films."

The aspiring producer/director made his first film in the eighth grade, as a school project at West Maple Junior High School.

"Within the Woods" tells about four friends who go to a cabin on vacation, where slowly things begin to go wrong. They tamper with ancient forces of evil. It becomes a grueling battle of terror and human survival.

"THE NEW TWIST is the monster is one of their friends," said Rami, who was writer-director for the short. He warns parents that "Within the Woods" would be rated "PG" (Parental Guidance).

"It's not a G film because there is this monster and he kills people." Why another horror film? "They're always sellable. If you can make one good enough, you can make a ton of money. It takes money to make films. It's the only art where you need thousands of dollars to create."

Each of the three young men put up \$500 each to film "Within the Woods." Admission to the film showing at Groves will be \$1 and will include "Clockwork," which Rami describes as "a short experience in terror."

PINE KNOB Music Theatre tickets are now available closer to home, for concert goers who live in the Birmingham area.