

Ohio trip should include stop at Cleveland

By IRIS SANDERSON JONES

The kids have gone 100 mph on the roller coaster at Cedar Point. They've been kissed by the big wet lips of a performing whale at Sea World. They've even ridden a 19th century steam train at Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area.

Now they are in downtown Cleveland, starting up through the curves of a huge black metal sculpture called "The Portal," hearing passers-by comment "It's interesting but what is it?" The sculpture is by Isamu Noguchi, the artist who created Detroit's controversial Dodge Fountain. "The Portal" is a fitting symbol for a city that is following the national movement of renaissance in inner cities.

This area of northern Ohio is a good travel destination for families who want to entertain the kids and also explore an unexpectedly rich city experience. The Noguchi work is as different from the famous oriental collection at the Cleveland Museum of Art as the steam train is from the coasters called Gemini.

Gemini is the look-Me-no-hands thrill ride at Cedar Point, a natural stop on the way from Detroit to Cleveland.

Other highlights of the park include the 360-degree corkscrew

ride, a gigantic ferris wheel, the new Wave Swinger, as well as live shows and exhibits. For Cedar Point information, call 955-2525 in Detroit.

AS YOU APPROACH Cleveland from the west, you are within diversion distance of the rose gardens of Lorain, the Indian Ridge Museum at Elyria, the Spirit of 76 Museum at Wellington or the campus of Oberlin College, all of which mark the approximate western boundary of the Western Reserve Region.

The Western Reserve is three million acres of land bought sight-unseen by the Connecticut Land Co. in 1796 for \$1,200,000. It was bought to provide expansion ground for Connecticut settlers in what was then called the Northwest Territories.

The life of that time can best be seen in the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area south of Cleveland, where a steam train puffs south past a historic farm and village on its way to Akron. The Cuyahoga Valley Line operates on Saturdays and Sundays through Oct. 30; for information, call 1-216-656-3711.

Hale Farm and Western Reserve Village is a restored Village depicting typical Western Reserve life from 1800-1850. The collection of farm and village buildings is active

with craftsmen all summer and often a special event. A quilt exhibit continues through July 31. Contact Hale Farm at 2886 Oak Hill Road, Bath, Ohio 44210.

Another highlight of the Cuyahoga recreation area is Blossom Music Center, summer home to the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra. You can picnic in groves and under shelters nearby, or on the grass while the music is playing. The seating arrangement is similar to that found at Meadowbrook Music Festival in Rochester.

IF YOU CONTINUE around Cleveland to the southeast, two family-fun places are located in Aurora, Ohio: a small theme-and-amusement-park called Geauga Lake Park and the better-known Sea World.

Sea World is a great deal more than an amusement park, so it is a nice counterbalance for the fun and games of either Cedar Point or

Gauga Lake. The only moving parts in Sea World are the fish and the kids.

A series of water shows runs concurrently like a four-ring circus. A huge area of creative make-your-own-fun play modules takes up a large corner of the park. Sea World also includes sea-related exhibits, an aquarium and some wet beach shared with the ducks.

The most famous occupant is Shamu, a 220-pound whale that shares a large show tank with a pair of dolphins. Shamu is joined this year by Wally the Walrus, an equally wet ham with a moustache.

Also premiering this year is Birds of Prey, featuring performing hawks, owls, macaws, ravens and cockatoos. Trainer Ray Berwick trained birds for the movies "The Birds" and "The Bird Man of Alcatraz."

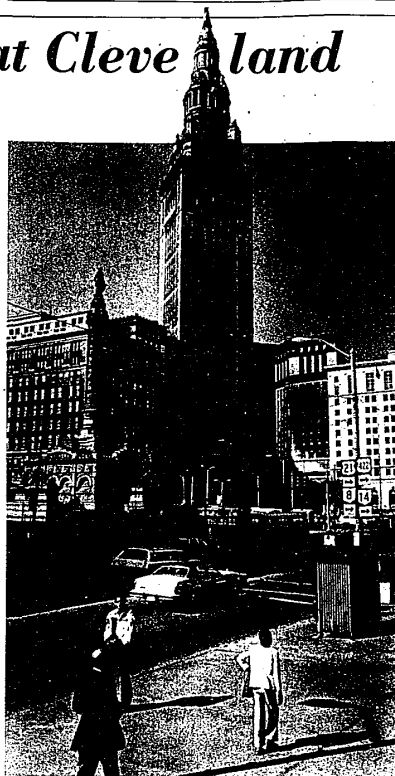
By the time you've done all that good kid stuff, you will be happy enough to see downtown Cleveland, which is going through the same change experienced by other northern industrial cities. The Terminal Building rises high over Public Square, where the pigeons fly around a bronze statue of city founder Moses Cleveland.

This area is worth a walking tour. Stouffer's Inn on the Square is a new version of a historic Cleveland hotel. Its new owners prided off all the plastic, wood and plaster used to cover up the old designs, so what you now see is the restored original building. It's worth a walk into the lobby at least.

The black towers of the Old Stone Church marks the oldest structure on the square, a Presbyterian church with original stained-glass windows designed for Louis Tiffany.

This was the first public square to be lighted electrically and you can see a brush arc light and an old electric lamp from that historic day in 1897. Just down Euclid Street is the "Spirit of '76" site where Archibald Willard did his first version of the famous American painting, and the Old Arcade, which opened on Decoration Day in 1890.

OLD, ELEGANTLY APPOINTED arcades are unique features of downtown Cleveland, where these high-ceilinged shopping centers have been restored for modern use. You can't see it all, but walk into the Eastman Reading Garden between the two buildings of the Cleveland Public Library and go down the New Federal Building where Noguchi's "Portal" graces the front of the Justice Center. This also takes you to the Erieview Plaza and the waterfront.



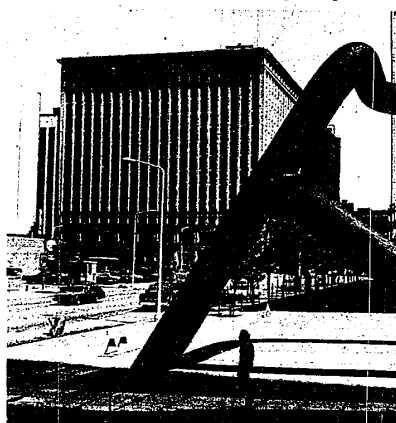
The Terminal Tower majestically rises above pedestrians and the public square in downtown Cleveland. (Photos by Micky Jones)

A Cuyahoga River Tour from Ninth Street Pier is a first-class way to satisfy both parents and kids, as you plan lunch and some time in the metro park system known as the Emerald Necklace and in the university area that includes the Cleveland Museum of Art.

If you would like elegant but casual dining at a moderate price, try That Place restaurant on Bellflower where you can watch the chef chop onions from one of the small bricked inner rooms or watch the birds and

the flowers from the patio as you eat a first-class lunch of quiche, ratatouille, salads, crepes, fish or special sandwiches, soups and omelets.

Of course, there are a lot more things to do in Cleveland and surrounding areas of the Western Reserve Region. For information, contact the Convention and Visitors Bureau of Greater Cleveland Inc., 511 Terminal Tower, Cleveland, Ohio 44113 or call 1-216-621-4110.



Isamu Noguchi's work, "The Portal," shares its interesting-but-what-is-it ambiguities with Detroit's Dodge Fountain.



Gen. Moses Cleaveland founded the city in 1796 in northeast Ohio at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River on Lake Erie.

TRAVEL LOG of Iris Jones



Travel writers earn peer praise

Michigan travel writers garnered awards from the Midwest Travel Writers Association during the group's recent meeting.

Observer & Eccentric travel writer Iris Sanderson Jones was awarded the Mark Twain Award for best newspaper travel series for a two-part series on India, which appeared in the O&E in October

1978. Ms. Sanderson Jones also was given the Cipriani Award for the best travel writing among stories submitted in all categories.

Mary Augusta Rodgers of Birmingham also was the recipient of the Mark Twain Award for best single magazine piece.

Roller coasting? Not again. No way.

Step right up folks to the Beast, the Loch Ness Monster, the Gemini. The coastermaniacs are at it again, going around in circles and screaming their heads off at roller coasters around the country.

This craziness used to be unofficial but now the riders have banded together as the American Coaster Enthusiasts (ACE) and they go out of their minds collectively instead of one by one.

ACE was formed at Busch Gardens, Va., in 1978. It had its first convention at Cedar Point last summer and its second annual convention at Kings Island, Ohio, June 16-17.

They came to ride the Beast, now the longest coaster in the world at 7,400 feet. It has the two longest vertical drops, 141 and 135 feet, and it winds up in a two-level 540-revolution turn, called a helix, just before you drop out of the track setting into full view of the Little Miami River.

YOU CAN RECOGNIZE A coaster enthusiast easily. Outwardly, he or she is a conservatively dressed, well-spoken person, often a teacher or other professional by trade. Mention the Colossus or Magic Mountain and these perfectly normal people begin to change. Their eyes roll around in their heads. They start jumping up and down, saying, "Yeah, yeah, remember the day when..."

Next thing you know they are whooshing and wheeling around in their imagination, going down one of those slopes.

IF YOU HAVEN'T RIDDEN a coaster lately, the scene follows something like this. You stand in line. You pay money. You sit down and they strap you in. A voice in your head asks, "What am I doing here?" But another experienced voice says, "It looks dangerous but it's really quite safe."

You start moving, click, click, click up a slow rise. Suddenly you realize that some idiot is about to drop you straight down, undoubtedly to your death. You start to scream. When you have survived this danger, you strut around saying how much fun it is.

And if you are a real coastermaniac, you ride every coaster in the country as many times as possible.

MY PROBLEM IS THAT at heart I'm a coward. I first rode one of these death rides years ago, just to experience it. What I can't explain is why I went again.

For years, as my sons were growing up, I let them drag me on wild rides so that they could laugh hysterically at me while I was screaming hysterically at the ride.

For more years, I scared myself to death because I couldn't bear to admit that I didn't like roller coasters.

And then one day I was freed. It was at Six Flags Over Georgia. I was with a group of travel writers approaching the Great American Scream Machine. My ulcers were having ulcers at the thought, when a little voice in my head said, "You don't have to go on that thing if you don't want to."

I dug in my heels, stared down all the little boys who were brave enough to ride 10 consecutive times and said "No!"

I have never ridden a roller coaster since, and when I am chastised for this cowardice I change the subject. My reputation as an adventurer has fallen to zero, of course. In fact, I heard today that Cedar Point has opened a Junior Gemini, which adults can ride if accompanied by someone shorter than 48 inches in height.

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This refreshing new idea in resort property invites you to make northern Michigan the site of your vacation or year-round home. Homesites and condominiums are now available in this exclusive subdivision on the Boyne Highlands Moor Golf Links, rated by Golf Digest among the top 100 courses in the U.S. Services available include underground electricity, telephone, natural gas, cable TV, central water and sewer (completion by November 1, 1979) and hard surface roads (completion no later than December 1, 1981).

Heather Highlands is just steps away from all Boyne Highlands resort facilities - golf on two 18-hole championship courses, skiing on 17 of the Midwest's finest runs, tennis, swimming, cross-country skiing and more. And we are only five miles from beautiful Harbor Springs and nine miles from downtown Petoskey.

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Nursing home care for elderly in transit

Two northern Michigan nursing homes are offering adult day care services to vacationers heading in that direction this summer.

According to Judy Petroff, R.N., administrator of the Provincial House skilled nursing facility in Traverse City, people who have elderly dependent relatives living with them can bring them to Provincial House while they go off camping or traveling.

Both the Traverse City nursing home and Provincial House in Tawas City offer the service.

make new friends with people of the same age.

Several families presently use the adult day care program at both facilities, Mrs. Petroff said. "One family we deal with has an elderly mother who needs 24 hour care," she said. "While they went on vacation for eight days, she stayed with us."

Most of the people who participate are in their 70s and 80s, said Mrs. Petroff. While they stay at Provincial House, they receive nursing care, meals planned by a registered dietitian, medication control and other services.

For further information, contact Provincial House, Traverse City at 1-616-947-9311 or Provincial House, Tawas City at 1-517-582-8645.