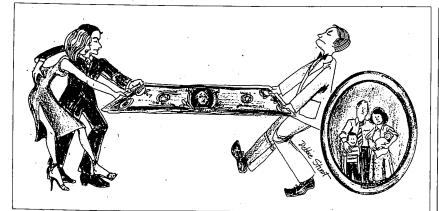
Thursday, July 26, 1979



Freebies can stretch that dollar

By JULIE BROWN

If rampant inflation is blowing holes in your entertainment budget, you may want to consider seeking out free or relatively inexpensive diversions.

We've confined our suggestions to Oakland County, out of consideration of the cost of gasoline. However, downtown Detroit does offer a number of low-cost happenings: summer ethnic festivals, the art institute, historical and science museums, Bob-Lo boats.

These are worthy of at least an occasional trip to the Renaissance City, and various conservation measures (public transportation, carpooling) can make them more economical.

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For entertainment closer to home, you might consider the Detroit Zoological

Park in Royal Oak. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays and 9 a.m.
to 7 p.m. Sundays and holidays.

THERE IS AN admission fee (\$2 for those age 13 and older, 75 cents for those 6-12). Children younger than 6 get in free. Parking is available, at \$2 per

car.

The zoo also offers entertainment extras, including a daily animal show (50 cents) and train rides (35 cents one-way fare).

If animals are not to your liking, or if a sudden downpour ruins your zoo expedition, your local library is a good source of low-cost entertainment. Most libraries have some programs for children and adults. Summertime offerings may be lighter than usual, but a quick phone call can put you in touch with the activities.

Birmingham's Baldwin Public Library (647-1700) hosts a Russell Barnes current events lecture from 1-3 pm. Tuesdays (the July 31 lecture has been canceled). There is a \$2 fee, payable at the door.

FOR CHILDREN, the library offers a preschool story hour from 2-2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 7, 14, 21 and 28. This is a drop-in program, although the story bours will require pre-registration in the fall. The programs are recommended for children ages 3-5.

The Bloomfield Township Public Library (642-5800) is a source of information on area events. The library's adult reference room has a current schedule of local doings, and also has information on local parks and recreation areas. For children, the library presents a story hour at 2 p.m. Thursdays, The story hours will end Thursday, Aug. 9, but will resume again in the fall. The library laso will have a candellight story hour at 7.30 p.m. Tuesday, July 31, for the whole family.

Southfield's Civic Center Public Library (354-9610) offers a story hour at 1.30 p.m. Tuesday, at the Beech Woods Reading Center. Both are drop-in programs and are recommended for children 3-5.

THE CIVIC CENTER library will offer a creative art workshop at 11 a.m. and 2 pm. Tuesday-Thursday, Aug. 7-9. This program is for children in grades one to three and requires pre-registration. There will be a T-halft workshop at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 7.a the Civic Center library, the program will be repeated at 2 p.m. Mechaesday, Aug. 8. at the Beech Woods Rending Center.

The West Bloomfield Public Library (682-2120) will have an "Indian Superheores" program from 2-3 p.m. Monday, July 30, for children in grades three to five. This program will include Indian crafts, as well as sign language demonstrations and discussion of Indian history.

The library will offer a "Disney Heroes" program from 1:30-2:15 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 7. This program, recommended for children 5-8, will include popperbanking demonstrations. Pre-registration is required and will begin Tuesday, July 31.

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The library's Westacree branch is sponsoring Reading Is Fundamental programs for children ages 3-4 Tuesday, July 31, and Monday, Aug. 27. These drop-in programs are designed to encourage interest in reading.

The Avon Township Public Library (651-1426) shows classic feature films at 7:30 p.m. the first Thursday of each month, year-round.

For children, the library will have a half-hour film showing at 10 a.m. on Thursday and Saturday, July 26 and 28. The films (Paul Bunyan" and "Johnny Appleseed") are intended for children in the early elementary grades.



Entertainment

The library will show "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Aug. 7-8. "Diary of Anne Frank" will be shown at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Aug. 21-22. For bolsterous children uninterested in sitting through a film showing, the library sponsors "Superwalk" hikes from 9-3-1:130 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 1, at the nearby Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve. Children are grouped according to 2017-03-10-13 Views-consistration is resulted. age (7-9, 10-12); pre-registration is required.

THE ROCHESTER-AVON Historical Society has designed walking tours of downtown Rochester for families. The two-mile walk lasts about 1½ hours and can be reduced for families with small children. Guide books for the tour are available at the library.

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The Farmington Public Library (553-0300) will have a folk heroes program from 2-3 pm. Tuesday, July 31, at the Farmington branch. The program, which features the films "Paul Bunyan," "Johnny Applessed" and "Windwagon Smith," will be repeated 10:30-11:30 â.m. Thursday, Aug. 2, at the Farmington Hills branch.

The Farmington Hills branch will offer a "Superkids Creation" program at 2 pm. Tuesday, Aug. 7. Children will create a heroic image of themselves by combining a self-photo and old comies. The program will be repeated 11 a.m. to noon Thursday, Aug. 9, at the Farmington branch.

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FOR ADULTS, the library will host artist John Potter at 7:30 p.m. Thursday,
July 26, at the Farmington Hills branch. There is also a family film hour at 3
p.m. Thursday and Friday, July 26-27, at the Farmington branch.

If you'd like to turn your home into a movie theater, check the Troy Public
Library (689-565). The library rents out films, the cost of which will leave you
some money for popcorn.

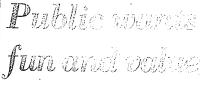
Standard and Super 8 films rent for 10 cents per-week per title, 16mm films
rent for 50 cents to 31 per day. The library has films for children's parties,
educational films (e.g., Alistar Cooke's "America") and travel films. Tape cassettes and records are also available, as they are at most of the libraries.

If nothing on this lengthy list suits your fancy, you do have other options.
Check local museums (art, science, historical) for information on tours and
special programs. The Cranbrook Educational Community in Bloomfield Hills,
for example, offers tours of the Cranbrook House, Gardens, Academy of Art
and Institute of Science.

THE CRANBROOK HOUSE tours from 2-4 p.m. Sundays cost \$1.50 for adults, \$1 for students and seaior citizens. The garden tours are held every day at 1-5 p.m., and cost \$1 for adults, \$5 cents for students and senior citizens. The art academy is open from 1-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Sundays. There is a \$1.50 admission fee. The science institute offers exhibits and planetarium demonstrations from 1-5 p.m. Sunday, admission is \$2.50 for adults, \$1.50 for students and senior citizens.

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FOR THE SPORTS Ians, check with your local parks and recreation department or community center, to see what free or inexpensive summer programs are offered. Often, local school pools are open to the public during the summer months and can provide for a refreshing dip. Local tennis courts, both in public parks and school facilities, can provide an arena for working on your backhand.



BY CHRISTINE BURKLI-BERY

If you want to dance, you have to pay the fiddler's price.

And as long as people get their money's worth out of an evening's entertainment they don't seem to mind paying that increasingly steep price.

That's the assessment of some owners and managers in the enter-tainment business in Oakland Coun-

tainment business in Oakland Courty.

Spokepersons for the restaurance.

Spokepersons for the restaurance.

Spokepersons for the restaurance as ever their customers good food and drink, along with good service, then customers will pay the bill and even come back for more.

Value is the key word.

But restaurants also are employing certain techniques — such as smaller portions, cheaper cuts of meat and lighter meals — in order to appeal to the inflation-conscious consumer and at the same time help themselves cut costs.

YVONNE GILL-DAYIS, owner of Tweeny's Cafe in Birmingham, said that people don't eat out less often but they are more selective about what they eat.

Ms. Gill-Dayis said she began to notice the price of food and wine increasing around February of this year. She then became very conscious of how much she spent when purchasing supplies for her restaurant.

rant.

In order to save money and pass
that savings on to the customer, she
occasionally buys less expensive cuts
of meat and cheaper wines, she

of meat and cheaper wines, she explained.
"Maybe people would eat here a choice," she said. "We can't buy every expensive veal scallopini, We have to use another cot of veal.
"People will shop around a bit more, be more selective, more pick-y. What I'm trying to do is encourage people to eat lighter dinners.

"THE CUSTOMER can't buy, buy, buy and neither can 1."

Ms. Gill-Davis said Tweeny's was "previously identified as a very expensive lovely little restaurant." She is trying to change that image by offering more variety, being more informal and not expecting customers to eat a full dinner.

Al Loewenstein, owner of Alfred's Somerset Dinner Theater in Troy, said he doesn't notice fewer people attending the theater. "It is getting more popular right along." said Loewenstein. "I think people realize it's a good deal."

The dinner theater is a "bargain," he said, because the customer pays a single price, \$16.50 including tips and taxes, for dinner and a play. This way, said Loewenstein, people know exactly what they will have to spend.

LOEWENSTEIN compared this price to the Fisher Theater where a customer pays \$16 for the play only. Then the theatergoer may go for dinner somewhere else and spend more money, usually increasing the cost of an evening's entertainment.



John Wood, general manager of Machis restaurants, believes people cat out less often, eat at less expensive places and are more selective about what they eat. He said every individual and business is affected by inflation, including the Machus restaurants.

Overall prices at Machus have in-creased about 12 percent in the last year. Beef, lobster and shrimp costs have jumped 20 percent in the last

Instead of buying cheaper cuts or meat or wine, Wood reduced the food portions. Rather than service two or three sizes of steak — 12 to 14 ounces — as restaurants did in the past, Machus now serves one size — 12, 10 or 8 ounces.

"We've found it's been very, very effective and very well taken in many units," said Wood. Machus changed the portions about two years ago.

Wood said Machus has lost cus-tomers to the coffee-house type of restaurant. He said the coffee house has a lower-priced menu and appeals to senior citizens or retirees.

FRANK BOLLINGER, assistant to the general art director and state tour director of Meadow Brook Theater in Rochester, said that Meadow Brook is one of the least expensive non-profit theaters in the country. "The theatergoer will pay because Meadow Brook is an inexpensive place to get to, with free parking, and lighted," he said. "This is aside from the fact that the theater has excellent productions; that's the main reason why the ticket buyers come back." Meadow Brook's season runs from Oct. 11 to May 18. To sub-from Oct. 11 to May 18. To May 18

INTERMISSION

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Both last week and four weeks ago, we asked readers to respond to the following question:

HAS THIS SUMMER'S GASOLINE SITUATION CAUSED ANY CHANGES IN YOUR ENTERTAINMENT PLANS' DO YOU GO OUT LESS FREQUENTLY, SKARE DRIVING WITH OTHERS, AND/OR SEEK OUT ENTERTAINMENT CLOSE TO HOME?

Cathleen Tierney of Troy wrote: "You better believe it! I only try to drive to and from work and my girlfriend and I take turns every week. I ride my 10-speed usually after work because everything I need is in my

usually after work because everything I need is in my vicinity.

"I have a cottage up north so we make sure the car is fall of people to save on gas instead of two or three cars making the trip. Also, if I'm going someplace (say visit) i will try to kill two binds with one stone and visit everyone I know in that area, or go shopping and visit everyone I know in that area, or go shopping and visit everyone I know in that area, or go shopping and visit everyone I know in that area, or go shopping and visit everyone I know in the same area." He said "I gas prices get too ridiculous I for one will park my car and use my two feet God gave me."

Bill Kreifeldt of Birmingham wrote: "The gas situation in combination with a new home which includes an in-ground pool plus an April bably, we've gone out things."

things."

A Birmingham woman, who asked not to be identified, wrote: "Our lifestyle cannot change because of the gasoline situation, because our lifestyle has always, especially since marriage, been very simple. My busband drives only back and forth to work and takes me occasionally out but seldom far, because he does not like driving distances.

"Like my busband, I drove only back and forth to

work and did my grocery shopping often on the way home or all at once on a Friday or Saturday. Now unemployed, whenever possible, small shopping is done on bicycle, a habit I still have from the old coun-

done on bicycle, a habit I still have from the oto country.

"It is not in our interest to misuse goods and comforts, but I am afraid evry few people think the way my bushand and I do. We use what nature has given us, we walk. Unfortunately, walking or bicycling is very restricted — no bicycle roads, and sidewalks are in imited areas only, i.e., few sidewalks are outside of residential areas."

Kristi Pryomski of Holly wrote: "The only entertainment plans my husband and I have for this summer will be to get to work and back home again. It work in Birmingham, he works in Flint, and we live in Holly (Bellew eme, in rush hour traffic it really can be entertaining).

Hotty, Detervor and the entertaining.

"Our vacations are being planned at home working on our house. That's about the only place the gas situation will take us."

This week's Intermission question is:

DO YOU THINK THE QUALITY OF TELEVISION PROGRAMMING HAS DECLINED IN RECENT YEARS? IF SO, DO YOU WATCH LESS TV BECAUSE OF THIS?

What is your opinion? Write your answer, clip the coupon, and mail it to the Intermission column.
Use additional paper if you want to send a more complete response. Letters may be edited, if space limitations require it.
Letters selected from those submitted will appear in the Thursday, Aug. 18, edition.