



ROOM FOR EVERYONE -- The Arthurs Petz family enjoys a rare moment when everyone is home to try the vacation-mobile for size. Lined up in front (from left) are

Michael, Larry, Beth, John, Carolyn, Arthur, Mrs. Petz and Dr. Petz. In back are Barbie, Mary Ann, Patty, and Kathy. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

Traveling Is More Fun When It's By The Dozen

By MARGARET MILLER

For the 112-member Petz family of Livonia, the annual vacation is an event to be planned carefully and savored for months and then enjoyed to the hilt.

Dr. Arthur Petz and his wife Dolores have found that some of their most enjoyable family living is done when all 10 children are firmly seat-belted in their bus and the telety vehicle heads for spots unknown.

They've logged about 12,000 miles in family trips since 1965, and before this summer season they'll add another 2,100 in a jaunt to Montreal, Quebec and Maine.

SINCE THE PETZ clan ranges down from 17-year-old Mary Ann, these parents are asked often if it isn't too difficult to travel with young children.

Their answer is that good planning makes it possible for all ages to enjoy travel.

"We include some things that the little ones will like especially," said Dr. Petz, a Livonia internist. "But I think what they like best is that during the 6 days we're traveling, we both can devote ourselves just to the family."

"You're a captive audience in a 12-seat bus," his wife added.

Last year, in Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Tetons, the family got in some horseback riding and fishing. They also fished the year before in Florida.

"And we cooked the yellow-tail snapper we caught," Dr. Petz said. "The kids said it was the best meal they ever had."

... THIS FAMILY believes in taking advantage of all the special side trips and exhibits in the areas visited.

They walked to the top of the Smoky Mountain's highest peak and toured the White House and Capitol when in Washington in 1967.

"We had to split up for a while then," Dolores Petz reported. "They wouldn't let anyone under five into the Senate chamber."

The first three trips, beginning with a New England tour

in 1966, were made in a station wagon. The bus joined the family two years ago.

"We take turns driving," Dr. Petz said, "and never plan too much driving for any day. And the bus just won't start until every seat belt is fastened."

... THE FAMILY travels lightly--seven suitcases fit nicely into the luggage rack on top of the bus. All seven go into two motel rooms each night. The older children carry them in; the younger ones pick up the day's collection of gum-wrappers in the bus.

Dr. and Mrs. Petz figure their mode of travel comes to "under \$100 a day."

"It's really a bargain for us," Mrs. Petz said, "because most motels don't charge for the smaller children."

She added that they look for the best restaurants for dinner--usually they are a better bargain with small children--and find their clan is always well received.

"It's amazing what that white tablecloth does for the children's manners," her husband added.

... THERE HAVE been a few bad moments when a child or two was missing briefly, but most of the memories are great and often relived. And both parents enjoy telling of their funniest encounters.

For Dolores Petz, it was the time in Florida someone asked if it wasn't hard to deal with so many children while traveling.

"It's easier than at home," she replied.

And the doctor recalls the new England resident who asked if all those children were his.

"Do you think," he asked, "I'd travel with all of them if they weren't?"

Farmington Woman Gets Tops UF Post

They say it takes a busy person to get things done, and the role of top volunteer for the 1970 Torch Drive has been awarded to a busy Farmington woman with a long list of volunteer activities and accomplishments.

She is Mrs. Russell D. Smith, who will serve as tri-county chairman of residential campaigns in the 22nd annual United Foundation drive. The emphasis this year in the residential campaign will be more on education than fund-raising.

Florence Smith is the widow of the late Harold J. Sebachern, Detroit News religion writer, and formerly lived in northwest Detroit.

In her new job, she will be responsible for enrolling, training and organizing 4000 chairmen and 50,000 doorbell ringers to call at every home in the campaign area.

SHE HAS CHOSEN Mrs. William L. McCracken of



MRS. RUSSELL D. SMITH work with the UF, and also has given time to a wide range of religious and civic groups.



JA DIRECTOR - Annette Cook has been named public relations director of Junior Achievement of Southeastern Michigan. Mrs. Cook, who lives in Royal Oak, will be responsible for the promotion of JA activities in 26 business centers in the area and at the Detroit headquarters. She attended Michigan State and Wayne State Universities, receiving her B.A. in journalism from the latter. She was previously public education counselor for the Metropolitan Society for the Blind.

Spotlight on Women

m. m. memos

The Fourth of July tends to be a pretty tame celebration for our family.

Nearly everyone else tells of the firecrackers they used to have on July 4 -- but I don't remember lighting a single fuse. Nor have we tried it for our children. The only Fourth of July injury we've had was a finger burned on a punk stick at the lake one year.

That lake cottage also was the scene of our only Fourth of July parade. We took movies as the children marched around the cabin carrying small flags.

We have managed to see a few fireworks, but from a distance. When the girls were small, we made it an annual practice to park by a certain roadside and spread blankets in the field there to see the display put on by a local golf club.

That was close enough for our crew when the booming and showering lights began.

Our patriotic endeavor has consisted of putting up the flag -- and trying to remember to bring it in by nightfall.

Fourth of July picnics have been strictly backyard affairs -- because we're not about to venture to a park on a holiday.

But this year I think we've hit on an ideal way to celebrate the Fourth.

We leave for our vacation -- and I call that a real Independence Day.

-- Margaret Miller

Highway Safety Council Set

Michigan Women for Highway Safety will hold a one-day conference from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, July 15, in the Skipper's Table Restaurant, 33201 Plymouth Rd., Livonia.

Mrs. Roy Schultz of Plymouth, Wayne county committee chairman for the organization, said the conference is open to MWFHS members and all women interested in learning more about local, county, regional and state highway safety problems and needs.

A sheriff, a judge or prosecutor, a road-commissioner and a driver education instructor also are expected to participate.

Reservations and lunch will cost \$2.50 and must be arranged in advance with Mrs. Schultz, 7854 Lilley, Plymouth.



FILED FELINE -- Ditto, the Northwest YMCA cat, once was lost for a day, and staff members found her in a file drawer. Now they know it's her favorite place to sleep--and supervise. (Observer photo by Vince Wilco)

Puss Keeps Track Of YMCA Doings

A bewhiskered supervisor will be keeping a close eye on operations when the building of the new Northwest YMCA addition begins.

She is Ditto, the cat who has made her home at the YW, Grand River and Beech, for nearly a year now.

Black-and-white Ditto arrived as a replacement.

The Northwest branch had a beloved mascot, Rhoda, for several years, and great was the mourning when Rhoda disappeared one day.

Frantic inquiries were made, and several newspaper stories mentioned that Rhoda was missing, but no one ever reported seeing her.

The staff was just getting used to its catless state when a veterinarian appeared one day with a four-week-old kitten.

"She came with a dowry," reported Ruth Ducey, executive

director of the branch. "The vet said she had had all her shots, and would take care of spacing and proper time."

"Now how can it be, lose when you get a cat with medical care?"

Ditto has made herself right at home in the YW. She explores the plant life around the court that centers the building and makes her presence known when there is desk work to be done--literally sitting on that work.

She had one bad night when she was lost in a drawer and had to wait until morning to be released, but she made up for that indignity by liberally decorating an advertisement for an astrology class at the YWCA.

What does she plan to do about that swimming pool coming to the YW? Well, Ditto isn't committing herself, but it's a good bet she'll adapt even to that.

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