

Think Michigan — help make 1987 special

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By David Litogot
special writer

When our country celebrated its 200th birthday in 1976, some of us enjoyed the special books, television programs, concerts, souvenirs and fireworks.

With Michigan commemorating its 150th birthday in 1987, we can do many things to make the year memorable, educational and enjoyable.

Sure, there will be trinkets to buy, newspapers and television stations will feature stories and programs about our state's past, and publishers will come out with the latest Michigan story and picture books.

There are ways you can make this a memorable year. There are dozens of things you can do to make 1987 a year to remember. I have listed here just a few suggestions to cure those dull weekends, monotonous vacations and weekday doldrums.

Read books only by Michigan authors. Your local librarian will help you find one to match your interests. Michigan authors have written drama, westerns, plays, adventure stories, humor, even comic books. Perhaps a book on state history is more appropriate. Some suggestions are Bruce Catton's "Michigan — A Bicentennial History," Dwight Boyer's "Great Stories of the Great Lakes" or David Anderson's "Michigan: A State Anthology." Local history lovers will enjoy "Heritage Homes of Farmington" by Ruth Mochlman and "150 Years of Botsford Inn" by Jean Fox.

Vacation only in Michigan, seeing the historical sights. The Department of State recognizes 200 historic attractions in the Wolverine State. To get a free copy of a 31-page historic guide, write to the Michigan History Division, Department of State, Lansing 48913.

Visit Michigan's new historic museum in Lansing next year. This

new structure will also house the state archives and library. The museum will illustrate the state's rich history as few museums can. While you are at it, visit some of the state's 189 museums — like the Warner Museum right here in Farmington. AAA offers a museum guide for Michigan. Just call 1-800-232-2520 for a copy.

Visit a Michigan Inn for a meal or a weekend. Locally, the Botsford Inn, the Dearborn Inn and the St. Clair Inn offer that historic atmosphere and charm.

Begin research on your family tree. With the Burton collection in Detroit and the state archives in Lansing, you can get a terrific start.

Join a historical organization.

footprints in history

The largest is the Michigan Historical Society. You can join by writing the society at 2117 Washburn, Ann Arbor 48104. Dues are \$20 a year. Locally, you can join the Farmington Historical Society. It usually meets each month on the fourth Wednesday at the downtown library. Membership is \$5 a year. There are other organizations for people interested in lighthouses, the Civil War,

even old airplanes.

Buy a Michigan Christmas tree this year — you know, one of the ones where you take the kids out to a tree farm, saw in hand, and wade through the snow to find that perfect tree. Put that artificial tree away for one year. It was probably made in some far-off country anyway.

Investigate to see what your local school is doing next year to teach

the history of the state. In Farmington, Michigan history is taught at the fourth-grade level, in a couple of sixth-grade classes and discussed in some high school American history classes. There is no Michigan history curriculum required by the state, so each school district handles the subject differently. Farmington is establishing a sequential committee headed by assistant superintendent Judy White. The committee goal is to coordinate school activities, share ideas, and promote the teaching of Michigan history to some degree at each grade level.

Give presents for Christmas, a holiday or a birthday that are made in Michigan. Some items in stores

are marked with a label that identifies it as "Michigan Made." Paula Blanchard promotes a booklet called the "Michigan Gift Guide." It is a catalogue of 100 gift ideas — all made in the state. For your free copy, call toll free 1-800-MI-PRODS.

Some people like to emphasize the negatives of the state: the crime, the unemployment, the unpredictable weather. But despite all the bad press and bad feelings, we live in a state of which we should be proud — proud of its natural beauty and resources, its industry, its fine wages, its people, its universities and especially its history.

Student writing contest will yield prizes

Michigan writers will have the opportunity to vie for cash prizes in the third short-story contest held by the Detroit Auto Dealers Association, sponsors of the Detroit Auto Show.

The winning entry will be featured in the 1987 Official Detroit Auto Show Program. The first-prize winner will receive a check for \$1,000. Second- and third-prize winners will receive checks for \$500 and \$250 respectively.

This year, the association created a second contest exclusively for high school students. Their entries will be judged separately, with prizes of \$500, \$250 and \$100 awarded to the first-, second- and third-place winners.

The top prize-winning story by a high school student may also be published in the Auto Show Program.

Previously, stories by students were judged with all other entries. This year, the DADA formed two contests to increase the chance of a student's work receiving public recognition and awards.

THE PURPOSE of the contest is to help promote good creative writing in Michigan and add an interesting feature to the Auto Show Program.

Beaufort Cranford, feature editor of The Detroit News, is the chairman of the judge's panel, now being formed. As in the past, judges will represent Michigan newspapers and other literary fields.

The contest is open to all Michigan residents except employees and family members of the DADA. There is no theme requirement, but entries

must be fiction, in good taste, and must not exceed 2,500 words. Each entry must be typed, typewritten and double-spaced.

The author's name and address must appear on the first page and the author's name must appear on subsequent pages. High school stu-

dents should also include the name of their school, English teacher and the grade in which they are enrolled. Manuscripts will not be returned.

A COMPLETE list of rules is available from the dealer association.

Entries must be received at the offices of the Detroit Auto Dealers Association, 1800 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy 48064 no later than Friday, Nov. 28.

The 1987 Detroit Auto Show runs Jan. 10-18 at Cobo Hall.

School to host holiday bazaar

Wares from 50 local craftspeople, plus baked goods, lunch, and a "children's room" will be part of the fun during the GHI Elementary holiday bazaar.

The event is scheduled to run on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is sponsored by the GHI PTA.

The children's room allows young-

sters to shop for gifts ranging from 25 cents to \$5. "Their gifts are wrapped at no charge and are ready to put under the tree," said Kathy Webb, representing the GHI PTA.

The children's room will also be

open 3-4 p.m. for adults to purchase stocking stuffers.

GHI Elementary is at 21195 GHI in Farmington Hills, between Eight and Nine Mile, and Farmington Road and Halsted.

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