



JERRY ZOLYNSKY/staff photographer

Bill Estes, surrounded by bits and pieces of childhood dreams, gets a kick out of watching youngsters spend 10 minutes deciding what kind of penny candy to buy at Brian's Sweet Shop in Plymouth.

## Candy stores recreate tasty bit of the past

By Sandra Armbruster  
staff writer

Remember the class clown? That was the guy who ducked into class late, only to raise his head and show off a wax mustache and fake teeth.

Decorum was done for that day.

Girls weren't to be outdone with their red-hot wax lips. And for both sexes, sweet shops stocked such goodies as candy cigarettes, wax bottles, flavored dots on paper, rope licorice, fake pipes and an assortment of penny candy.

Ever get a sweet longing for the days of old?

Now we're not suggesting you walk into work looking like you forgot to remove your Halloween makeup, but we have found some places around where you can show your kids just how awesome your own childhood was.

A good place to start is Greenfield Village. Hey! The kids already think you belong in a museum, right? Well, show them some things are worth remembering, like the maple sugar candy, rock candy, peanut broken sticks, bailey drops, pecan pralines and assorted candy slicks sold at village and museum stores.

Pecan pralines, a chewy-out delight popular in the South, are a great favorite with adults, village spokeswoman Margaret Johnson said.

But the best seller with the younger set is the candy sticks, which come in assorted flavors. They're so popular that they don't even keep an inventory on them, she said.

"Last year we sold more than a quarter of a million of the candy sticks," Johnson added.

**FOR ATMOSPHERE**, as well as a taste of the past, try Brian's Sweet Shop on North Mill in Plymouth's Old Village.

From the outside, the anticipation builds just from seeing a shop that looks better than a gingerbread house.

Inside the tiny shop, shelves and barrels are crammed with things sweet dreams are made of. Showcases hold chocolate and maple sugar candies and the old-fashioned ice cream of your choice. An antique scale sits atop a counter, waiting for the next order of, say, burnt peanuts.

Around a corner are a couple of high-polished, wood ice cream

parlor sets, a popcorn machine and crafts for sale. Tucked into a corner is a skateboard shop.

But it's the candy that mesmerizes all ages once they enter.

Cory Mullen, 9, and his sister Caley, 7, spent long minutes selecting cherry wax bottles from the assortment of licorice pipes, gum, b-b-bat suckers, dots, Squirrels and Mary Janes.

"Kids make some big decisions in here," said Bill Estes. "They spend 10 minutes selecting a penny's worth of candy."

Estes, who, with wife Pat, is tending store for their son, Brian Walker and his wife.

"A lot of elderly people get a kick out of seeing this candy," Estes said. He added that a man was in one day last week looking for a watermelon-shaped coconut concoction from his past.

They'll call around to find it, too, since special orders are just part of business.

SO IS 16-year-old Maria Simos of Garden City who finds Teabury's Clove Gum "awesome." She stops in after the dance classes she teaches.

"The clove gum is the best in the world," Simos claimed.

One thing we'll bet you didn't know is that favorite treat may just have come from around the world. The licorice pipes are from Finland and the chocolate variety is from France.

Estes is sure one item they carry you'll be familiar with is a breath freshener called Sen-Sen.

"When we were kids and used to smoke, we used it to kill our breath... and when we got older and started to drink... it was really quite popular when we were 16, 15, 10..."

Introducing the younger generation to our tastes has its risks.

Cynthia Smith, who manages Kemnitz candy shop on Ann Arbor Trail in Plymouth, says the store has been in business for 36 years.

She remembers adults coming in to buy candy as children.

"I've watched kids grow up and bring in their own kids," she recalled. "They say, 'Oh, yuk, Mom,' but generally they like it."

And what about those red lips?

There is a girl who comes in before her ballet class to buy 25 cents of Red Hot.

"She wonders if her lips are red," Smith said. "We giggle about it."

**'Kids make some big decisions on her. They spend 10 minutes selecting a penny's worth of candy.'**

— Bill Estes  
Brian's Sweet Shop

## Swimsuits that put SIZZLE into summer



Continued from Page 1

"There are some women who still insist on two-piece styles for tanning, but we're selling mostly one-piece suits," said Carol Bros, owner of Beach Bound Ltd., a custom computerized swimwear store at Hunters Square in Farmington Hills.

"After all," she continued, "most women aren't built like models and everyone we fit tells us they either want to disguise or enhance a particular part of their anatomy."

At Beach Bound, customers are categorized according to body types and fashion tastes. A computerized printout suggests certain styles for them. The method apparently works as the stores has made upwards of 800 swimsuits in the nine months the store has been in business.

**A STROLL THROUGH** the resort

wear departments in Hudson's. Crowley's and Jacobson's reflects what appears to be a trend toward the exotic look — accomplished more by fabric and style than by the super bare swimsuits of the past.

Not that designers have discarded the string bikini, but it appears that they've finally discovered that most bodies don't look that good in them.

Yves St. Laurent, Cole of California, Bill Blass and Pierre Cardin are just some of the designers who are showing a wider variety of suits this season. With the emphasis on color and exotic motifs, there are more patterned suits than solids on the racks.

With the exception of black, there are only a few solid colors to choose from. "Black is still one of our best sellers," said Bros, adding that most women still feel "black makes them look slimmer."

### What's hot; what's not

What's in:

- Solid black, red and white
- Big, floral patterns
- Patterned front with solid back
- One-piece with hi cut thighs
- Ruffles "on the inside" type with matching ruffles on bikini bottoms
- Animal motif
- Metallic look
- Cover-ups, especially mini-skirts

that match your bathing suit

What's out:

- Solid pastels
- All-in-one patterns (same on front and back)
- Peekaboo, styles (two-piece styles attached by see-through mesh or fabric that becomes transparent when wet)

## Quick getaways ease a long wait for spring

Continued from Page 1

cludes the only salad bar I ever saw with a bowl of crumbled blue cheese on it. A great day trip, if you start early.

**7. CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY** at the Irish Festival at Doherty's in Clare March 7-12, or at some of our Michigan resorts. Shanty Creek wears the green March 18-20. And if you want to stay home, they kiss the blarney stone all over the metro Detroit area!

**8. FRANKENMUTH IN WINTER** is a sight to behold, snow capping the Bavarian roof tops and the wooden bridge. The Pled Piper goes round and round playing his song on the glockenspiel outside the Bavarian Inn, which celebrates its 100th birthday this month.

The famous chicken dinners at the Inn and at Zehnder's restaurant across the road taste even better when you don't line up for them.

**9. SEE THE EASTER BUNNY** at Bronner's Christmas Wonderland in Frankenmuth and get a jump on next year's Christmas

shopping while you're at it. The Bunny will be there from March 18 to April 2.

**10. HEAR THE IRISH ROVERS** sing their wonderful Irish songs at James E. Whiting Auditorium in Flint March 5. Call 1-239-6772.

**11. TAKE A WEEKEND TRIP** to the northern Lower Peninsula and stay at either Stafford's Bayview Inn or the Terrace Inn, on either side of US 31 near Petoskey. Both are in the Bay View Association, that marvelous collection of three-story Victorian cottages.

You will find Stafford Smith, known to his friends as Duff, at the end of his famous Sunday buffet line. Pat and Mary Lou Barbour, new innkeepers at the Terrace Inn, are now keeping the Terrace open year round.

You can't buy cocktails at either place because of association rules, but you can bring your own wine to dinner.

**12. RIDE A TRAIN** to either London, Ontario or Chicago. Telephone 1-800-USA-RAIL.