

Adventure travels: A change of pace

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trekking or other off-beat trips. Speaking of off-beat, there is a good quarterly newsletter called Off Beat, the Newsletter for Adventurous Travelers from 1250 Vallejo St. Suite 9, San Francisco, Calif. 94109. It costs \$4 an issue or \$15 a year.

Their winter 1988 issue is entirely about traveling in Guatemala, from Guatemala City to Chichicastenango, with information about what to wear, where to stay, etc. Traveling on your own in a foreign country, whether you climb mountains or not, can be very adventurous depending on how you approach it.

That gives you a few ideas for that faraway exotic trip. If you would just like to walk and hike on your own, send for Michael Sedge's Adventure Guide to Italy, 2460-W Lexington Drive, Owosso, Mich. 48867. Michael lives in Italy and knows the place like the back of his hand.

Which brings me to your close-to-home spring trip. Contact Michigan Bicycle Touring, 3512 Red School Road, Kingsley, Mich. 49649 or telephone (616) 263-5885 for a copy of Michigan Bicycle Touring 1988. Weekend tours start in May, five-day tours in June. It's a great state to tour on two wheels.

You could also contact College Cycle Tours, Suite 244, 15987 West 12 Mile, Southfield, Mich. 48075 or telephone 357-1370. They do 26-day bike tours of Colorado for college-age travelers, 17-25. It may not have occurred to you that it can be a lot of fun seeing the world from the seat of a bicycle. Exotic? Why not. Back-

... it can be fun
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the seat of a bicycle.

roads Bicycle Touring, P.O. Box 1626-H78, San Leandro, Calif. 94577 will take you biking in France, Australia, Idaho, Bali, the Monterey Peninsula or the Canadian Gulf Islands (which includes sailing).

Or how about Off-The-Deep-End-Travelers, P.O. Box 7511, Jackson, Wyo. 83001-0711. Call toll-free (800) 223-5833 for a list of trips from biking through Asia or New Zealand to skiing Japan.

Progressive Travels, P.O. 775184, Steamboat Springs, Colo. 80477 does bike trips from Hawaii to Colorado. Call (800) 245-2229. Sunawnee Country Tours Inc., P.O. 247, White Springs, Fla. 32096 does bicycle, canoe and houseboating adventures all over Florida.

Spoke Songs, 130 Fir St., Mahomet, Minn. 55115, which claims to be the largest bicycling company in the North Central Midwest, does spring clinics and lots of tours, especially from inn to inn.

The real inn-to-inn specialists are Bike Vermont, P.O. Box 207, Woodstock, Vt. 05091. What a great way to see New England.

If you want a directory of all the biking adventures, contact League of American Wheelmen, Suite 209, 8707 Whitestone Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21207. For \$4 including postage and handling, they'll send you a copy of Bicycle USA.

CDs make jukeboxes thing of past

(AP) — At the flick of a switch, drop of a nickel, push of a button and spin of a wheel, time stops. Melodic memories dance into the air as an elegant American dinosaur stirs to life in the corner of Bill Russell Jr.'s living room.

Russell's find, in material, is little more than glass, mirrored tubing, chrome, multicolored plastic, birch plywood, metal and vinyl. But it is history, an aging relic of a fading era, a captured face of America.

Gaudy, yet resplendent; dated, yet timeless; audacious, yet inviting, it is a pillar of nostalgia for the estimated 20,000 Americans, who like Russell, are private collectors of jukeboxes.

"Everyone freaks out when they see it," said Russell, a Brewster, Wis., carpenter, of his 1952 Seeburg Model C. "It's the first thing they ask about. They're surprised to see a jukebox in someone's home."

Russell's glass-top Seeburg, which makes a show of the vinyl 45 rpm (rotations per minute) records being selected, spindled and spun, was in its time a technological marvel.

Wurlitzer dominated the jukebox industry through the 1940s, putting out classic jukeboxes in its own right, notable the timeless 1015. But the Wurlitzers played clumsy 78 rpm records and offered just 24 selections.

SEEBURG, IN 1951, introduced 45 rpm records that were smaller, cheaper and easier to manufacture than the 78 rpm records.

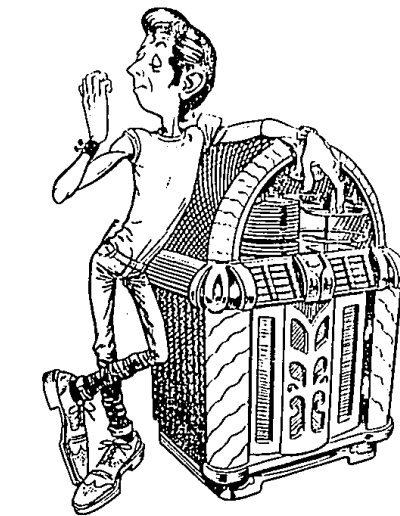
"That was the new thing; man, it was spazzy," Russell said. "The 45's spawned Seeburg's Model A jukebox, designed to play 100 selections, and rapidly rendered the Wurlitzers obsolete. The Model B's and Model C's, like Russell's, quickly followed the Model A."

Seeburg continued using the Selectomatic 100 tracking design on its machines from then until it quit making 45 rpm jukeboxes three years ago. It's no accident Russell came to own a jukebox. Russell's father, William Sr., repaired Seeburg jukeboxes and other amusements in St. Louis for 47 years.

"I used to go with him to bars and taverns and stuff to work on them," William Jr. said, remembering tooling around in a '55 Chevy four-door with the back seat replaced by drawers filled with parts of jukeboxes, pinball and cigarette machines. "My father used to bring (45s) home by the tons. It's part of the business."

Compact laser discs, CDs, are revolutionizing the music industry, and the manufacturing of 45 jukeboxes has stopped. Seeburg has marketed CD jukeboxes for the past year and other amusement manufacturers are following suit.

"The patrons in the various retail locations no longer want the snap-



crackle-pop of 45s," said Joe Pankus, executive vice president for marketing at Seeburg. "They want the range of the CD and the various selections (which could total up to 1,200 per machine)."

RUSSELL HAD told his father he would like to own a jukebox, and in 1975 the elder Russell bought the Seeburg Model C for \$50 and took it to his son. The machine was found stored in a barn, tattered, covered with dust and grime and with its wiring eaten away by mice.

"He rolled up in a pickup and said, 'Here's your jukebox,'" William Jr. said. "I said, 'This is my jukebox? It sure doesn't look like much.'"

With his father's help in finding parts, Russell invested another \$50 and many hours of labor and restored the Seeburg to near-immaculate condition.

Russell said he almost sold his machine for \$450 soon after restoring it, but he's glad he didn't. He estimates the jukebox is worth \$2,000 to \$3,000 today.

The classic Wurlitzer 1015 cost \$700 to \$800 new, Pankus said, but is now worth \$15,000 to \$20,000 in mint condition. Private collectors can pay anywhere from a few hundred to a few thousand dollars for machines, depending on what the seller is asking.

Jukeboxes' nostalgic value, however, is immeasurable. The machines conjure memories of roadhouses, sock hops and malt shops, and Russell said he still gets excited when he sees the Seeburg Model C on the television show "Happy Days."

The first modern-era jukebox was built in 1934, but "when it really took off was from 1950 to 1960," Pankus said. More than 50,000 jukeboxes were being manufactured and sold each year during the heyday and 500,000 were in distribution.

But it was the advent of video games that started the decline of jukeboxes.

"PRIOR to video, jukeboxes were the mainstays of the coin-operated business," Pankus said. "From 1972 to 1982, everybody wanted a video game. They didn't want music."

"The big money in the amusement game was in the video business, but music has been starting to pick up ever since video went down. It's just a reverse role. . . . Since the advent of compact disc, the production in our industry is showing an upward climb."

Manufacturers will have stopped making 45s and LPs entirely within five years, Pankus predicted, making vinyl extinct.

"(Record collectors) better start buying it and saving it now," Pankus said. "Kids today use tapes; they use CDs. Vinyl records are dinosaurs. You don't see 'em. Nobody's making them."

The elder Russell has seen a lot of changes in 47 years and said that "if these people would make a jukebox for the honky-tonk, that's where the money is." But, he said, they need "something that's gaudy-looking, not all this fancy stuff."

As gaudy, say, as the jukebox in his son's living room? "I guess it's the sound," William Jr. said. "To me, you can't duplicate that sound."

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Consumer Information Center Dept. 10, Pueblo, Colorado 81001

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