

weeder's guide

Earl
Aronson

Landscaping a theme park

One of Florida's newer theme parks offers an unusual combination of beautifully landscaped grounds and six baseball fields. The park is in Baseball City, between Orlando and Tampa in central Florida.

The park has a western theme, including a Colorado Riders Show, many thrill rides, baseball movies, batting and pitching cages. It is formerly the home of Circus World, where 15 years ago there were only citrus trees.

Since the present owners, the publishing firm of Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, bought the 135-acre site in May 1986, more than 6,000 trees have been planted — including oaks, pines, palms, willows, dogwoods, sycamores, sweet gums and red cedars.

Susan Bloodworth of Harcourt's staff says only the infield of the park's stadium diamond has artificial grass. The outfield and all the other fields have natural turf (Bermuda grass).

There are 93 beds of annual flowers along the 1 1/4 miles of new boardwalk, which is made of Australian jarrah wood (eucalyptus family). Bloodworth says more than 421,000 wooden screws were used to hold down the 35,000 jarrah wood boards (1 1/2 by 2 inches) needed to construct the boardwalk.

BLOODWORTH SAYS the wood boards are resistant to fungus, fire and pests. If placed end to end, she says, the boards would reach 96 miles.

The wooden boardwalk replaced hot concrete walks. Harcourt officials say the replacement cost exceeded \$1 million. Near the boardwalk is a lovely garden with many types of cactuses, crows of thorns and aloe plants.

Horticulturist Paul Shaw served as my park guide. He explained, "Landscaping is an interpretation of the one who does it. I like it natural, informal."

Before the changes were made, he said, "it was a hot and sterile scene. We gave it softer boardwalks, tore up concrete walks, screened the 24 amusement rides in the midway with dwarf bamboo and other plantings."

To simulate flowing water, Shaw and his crew planted Indian bayberry, silverthorn and cleome. A near man-made pond and fountains.

"We have added mounds, planted

cool-looking iris and set in big rocks to change flat areas," he said. "We did it all ourselves, me and my crew."

Shaw says the circus big top, where animals, clowns and acrobats once performed, was leveled and transformed into peaceful Park Place.

At Park Place, visitors may listen to classical music and relax among the trees, near hibiscus, ferns, ornamental grasses, irises, lilies and cardboard palms. Nearby are wrought iron bird cages, hanging baskets of asparagus ferns and herb Swedish ivies that were fashioned by Shaw.

Nearly 200,000 annual flowers — impatiens, petunias, marigolds, pansies, primroses and dianthus — are alternated seasonally in beds. An estimated 5,000 naturalized perennials dot floral beds and are interspersed among trees.

TWO YOUNG WOMEN WERE planting petunias near the stadium as we passed. Shaw explained, "We change flower beds three to six times a year, depending on what is planted. We also use flowers for landscape color."

The park's pink and gray color theme is emphasized in petunias, pansies, begonias and ageratum. A giant floral logo, 37 feet tall, 67 feet wide, and made of 3,000 flowering annuals, stands at the park's entrance.

Trees for the park were selected from tree farms in Florida, Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina. The trees were stored until planting time, transported by special forklifts, and settled into pre-dug holes 1 1/2 times larger than the root ball.

The trees were specially fed and watered with the help of three miles of flexible tubing. The oldest trees are 25 years old; most are 6-12 years old.

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich also operates Cypress Gardens in Florida and the Sea World parks in Florida, Ohio, California and Texas.

(For a copy of Earl Aronson's "AP Guide to House Plants," send \$1.50 to House Plants, AP News-features, 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020. Any questions about gardening problems must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.)

By Julia Shiller
special writer

While pianist Laura Kargul was working on her doctorate in music at the University of Michigan, she often entertained the possibility of going into other professions.

Leery of the arduous lifestyle a concert career often brings, much less the road to becoming a concert artist, Kargul foresaw frustration and joblessness in her future.

But after being invited last year to teach and perform at the Cultural Center for the Caribbean in Kingston, Jamaica, she is certain that no other profession could possibly do what music does for her soul.

"I admit that music is a difficult, sometimes frustrating profession," she said. "But nothing else appeals to me. Teaching and performing are so rewarding. One can really make a difference in like Jamaica where musical training is difficult to obtain. The students don't have the same advantages as children in the U.S."

Kargul says that although Kingston is a thriving city, the standard of living in Jamaica is yet to develop its potential.

"There is no large middle class in Jamaica. If a family has a piano, it's considered wealthy. Many children live in orphanages. It's wonderful when they can pursue something that gives them a sense of worth. And it's a wonderful responsibility to

be able to help them, to mold them in a constructive way."

Each morning, Kargul arrives at the music school at 7:30 a.m. to teach, perform, coach chamber music and practice until 7:30 p.m. Then she heads home to practice for a couple more hours.

WITH OVER 30 PERFORMANCES a year, most of them outside of the United States, Kargul says that she needs to practice three to six hours a day in order to stay in shape for her concerts. She is thrilled with her recent performance of Beethoven's Fifth Piano Concerto with the Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra. And she maintains that performing is very much a two-way street.

"I love performing. I feel the communication line with the audience. I can be as inspired by the audience as it is with me. After a concert, I'm always motivated to learn new music. That is the greatest pleasure to me."

Kargul believes that her early training with Detroit pianist/teacher Rebecca Frohman greatly contributed to her love of music and ability as a musician.

"Mrs. Frohman is a wonderful teacher and person. She gave me enough space to express myself so that I could develop my own personality. She's really a fine musician."

Kargul, born in Detroit and raised in Redford, studied with Frohman for 10 years before winning Interlo-

chen's All-State scholarship to U-M, where she went on to study with pianists Leon Fleisher, Theodore Levin and conductor Gustav Meier. She also was coached by Mischa Kottler, Gary Graffman, Murray Perahia and Andre Watts in master classes.

Her performance career has taken her to major music centers in the United States, the Caribbean and Europe. When she made her debut at Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, she won accolades from critics: "World class piano playing . . . almost feverishly inspired from the first note to the last note, so controlled and so thrilling. She belongs on our big concert stages." (Haagsche Courante, The Hague).

HER TALENT HAS also been recognized in national piano competitions such as the National Federation of Music Clubs Young Artist Competition and the National Society of Arts and Letters, both of which earned her top prizes. Currently, she is preparing for the Liszt Piano Competition to be held in Budapest, Hungary in 1991.

Despite Kargul's enthusiasm and devotion to music, she doesn't recommend a concert career to anyone skeptical of maintaining equilibrium in such a demanding field.

"Unless music means everything to you, it's not the kind of life one would want to endure. The field is so overcrowded and the work can be

overwhelming. If you don't think that you have what it takes to be a performer, or that other things interest you, don't try to put all your energies into it. Give yourself options. Otherwise, if music is what you really desire at the expense of everything else in life, then go for it."

Kargul adds that a person should trust his or her own instincts in making a career choice or deciding whether to move.

"You have to always believe in yourself, even at times when things are not going well. Some of my well-meaning friends tried to dissuade me from going to Jamaica. They thought that it wasn't for me. But I felt that it was absolutely the right thing to do. Although I spend a lot of time teaching, I enjoy doing it. Society has given me so much. I want to feel that I'm making a contribution to society."

Kargul's plans for the future include recording albums and helping others attain their goals.

"When I look at someone like Mischa Kottler (Detroit's pianist laureate), who is always giving free lessons to those who can't afford to study, I realize that there's more to life than reaching that peak in the middle of my career."

"I don't view my career as being a brilliant one in the future, but I'm striving to do the best I can. Along those lines, I hope to guide many people with their aspirations in life."

Ann Arbor Street Art Fair coming

Write it down now, because before you know it, it will be here.

The 29th annual Ann Arbor Street Art Fair will take place Wednesday through Saturday, July 20-23.

Wednesday through Friday the fair will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday the hours will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Ann Arbor Street Art Fair is the original juried fair, the oldest fair, of three art fairs happening on exactly the same dates.

The three are so close geographically that it's sometimes hard to tell where one ends and the next one begins. The Ann Arbor Street Art Fair is located on South and East Univer-

sity avenues, next to the University of Michigan campus, in downtown Ann Arbor.

A SPECIAL ITEM is available to fairgoers this year. It is a full-color poster by art fair artist Bo Sterk, at the price of \$5.


Sterk is also the artist who de-

signed this year's fair T-shirts and postcards. All the designs, the postcard, T-shirt and poster, relate to each other.

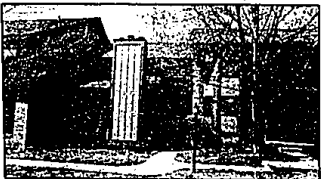
His humorous drawings in beautiful colors emphasize the high-quality art to be found in this art fair, the original juried Ann Arbor Street Art Fair.

We need you!
We need carriers for Observer & Eccentric routes.
Call 631-0500 to find out all about it.


Chamberlain REALTORS®
"Serving the area's finest communities since 1948"



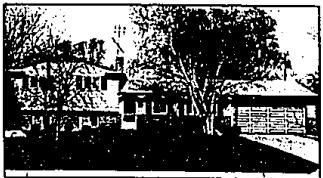
HUNTINGTON WOODS
Spacious 4 bedroom colonial with great floor plan. Family room with fireplace, 2 1/2 baths, screened porch overlooks inground pool. A very large home with great decorating potential. \$158,000 (Y263) 547-2000



LOVELY SOUTHFIELD TOWNHOUSE
on RAVINE. Spacious open floor plan, tasteful neutral decor. Two bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, two story foyer, natural fireplace, den, basement, central air, professionally landscaped, deck, patio. Clubhouse, pool, two carports. \$79,900 (M222) 647-6400



WEST BLOOMFIELD BEAUTY
BEAUTIFUL WEST BLOOMFIELD colonial, 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, formal dining room. Raised hearth fireplace in family room, hardwood floors, country kitchen. A great location. Freshly painted kitchen, foyer, bedroom and basement. \$161,500 (P410) 557-6700



FARMINGTON HILLS
Sharp 3 bedroom ritz/lux on a nice lot offering 1 1/2 baths, family room, breakfast room, newer kitchen with ceramic floor and attached 2 car garage. \$119,900 (K278) 851-4400



SUMMER WITH INGROUND POOL
UNIQUE CONTEMPORARY redwood ranch on 1/4 acre in Southfield. Large remodeled kitchen with oak cabinets, Jenssire and more. Great room with fireplace, 3 bedrooms and remodeled bathroom with skylight. Fast occupancy available. \$79,500 (L238) 557-6700



SOUTHFIELD
Pride of ownership reflects throughout this well maintained brick ranch. Features family room with fireplace, 1 1/2 baths, central air, attached 2 car garage with opener and a nice patio. Conveniently located to schools, shopping and expressways. \$74,500 (L278) 851-4400

BIRMINGHAM 647-6400 **ROYAL OAK** 547-2000 **ROCHESTER** 651-1100 **BLOOMFIELD** 641-6788

SOUTHFIELD/LATHRUP 557-6700 **TROY** 641-1660 **WEST BLOOMFIELD** 851-4400

For a career in real estate contact any of the offices above

Need a larger home?



Read the Creative Living pages every Thursday -- the area's finest Real Estate guide.

THE
Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS