

A fruity bouquet

No, we're not talking about a floral arrangement nor a stylish fruit basket. What we're talking about is wine — Bordeaux wine to be exact. A group of French vintners was in town recently to tout the special qualities of their wines and Street Scene decided to take a look and . . . well . . . a sip or two. See Page 6D.

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Faces like those of Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross and Michael Jackson grace the walls of Hitsville USA, a reminder of the simple beginnings of Motown's cadre of super stars.

Motown sound lives on walls of museum

By Rebecca Haynes
staff writer

It's where it all began. If you close your eyes, you can picture Stevie Wonder at the black grand piano or Diana Ross and the Supremes standing behind the microphones.

It's Studio A at Hitsville, U.S.A., a small record company that in 1959 became Motown, and no, it's not the fancy studio in which you'd expect that all of those great songs were recorded.

It's a drafty room with poor lighting and a small control booth, and it's in the basement of a home on Detroit's West Grand Boulevard, bought by Motown founder Berry Gordy Jr. back in 1959. A family loan of \$800 was enough to get the now multi-million-dollar empire started.

"Motown was something that just evolved," said Esther Gordy Edwards, Ber-

ry's older sister and director of the Motown Museum, housed in the Hitsville building.

"We didn't set out and plan to make history. "Berry started as a songwriter while he was employed at the Ford Motor Co. on the Lincoln Mercury production line," she said. "I remember he used to say that if he didn't have songs on his mind he wouldn't have been able to get through the day."

So, one day he quit his \$85 a week job and decided to write songs for a living, much to the dismay of their parents, Edwards said. He wrote all of the songs for Jackie Wilson, including "Lonely Teardrops" which helped launch his career.

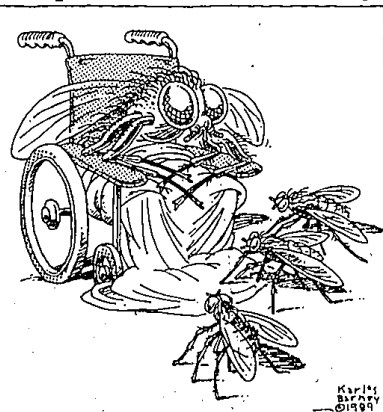
GORDY'S ORIGINAL plan was to make recorded masters in his basement studio which he would sell in New York as an independent producer, Edwards said.

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HITSVILLE

Warp Factor

Karlos Barney



"Grandpa, tell us again how you had to chew your own leg off to escape flypaper."

When spring comes to Michigan

By Iris Sanderson Jones
contributing travel editor

Q: Now I know how a tulip must feel, sitting there under the ground waiting to explode into bloom. I've got my fishing rod and my golf clubs ready. I'm tired of hearing about how its spring down south! When does the action start in Michigan?

M.J.

Livonia

A: Hang on to your golf and fishing hats. Spring is about to bust out all over, even if the leaves have forgotten how to turn the trees green. Golf, fishing and flower time is on its way!

Tulip Time will turn Holland, Mich., into garden city May 15-20. While you are waiting for that, you can hit the maple syrup festivals in Shepherd and Vermontville April 28-30.

That seems to be the first real weekend of spring this year, even though spring is officially a month old. The National Trout Festival is on in Kalkaska that weekend and the Walleye Festival is going on in Freeland April 29.

They've got a kite fest in Kalamazoo April 29-30 and a bike-athon at the farmer's market in Ann Arbor April 30. If you really want to know what its like to bust out of

the earth into spring, consider the Blossomtime Festival in Benton Harbor April 30 to May 7 or the Mushroom Festival in Mesick May 1-7.



MICKY JONES

Come June 2-4 you can sample the pleasure of canoeing along such waterways as the Huron River in Ann Arbor during free statewide canoeing days.

Mushrooms are Michigan's way of telling you its spring. They've got a mushroom festival in Harbison May 6, the Morel Mushroom Festival in Lewistown May 13 and the National Mushroom Hunting Championship at Boyne City May 13-14.

You'll notice that a lot of those events are on the west side, so you can do several in a weekend, if you're really busting out into spring. Do the tulips in Holland, explore the boutiques and bed-and-breakfast places in Saugatuck, and then go mushrooming near Traverse City.

IF GOLF IS more your style, there is a statewide "Golf Michigan!" promotion, offering free clinics for beginners, at several dozen courses around the state May 15 to June 16. And Grand Traverse Resort is offering free golf, racketball or tennis to their guests through May 25.

Muzzleloaders about to explode are meeting for a Cabin Fever Rendezvous May 19-21 in East Jordan.

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