

Camping without going on the trip

By Bill Parker
staff writer

Lee Trotter doesn't let a handicap slow her down. Despite poor circulation, which keeps her from walking very far or driving an automobile, the Rochester resident gets out "three or four times each summer" to pursue one of her favorite outdoor activities: camping. And this modern day pioneer doesn't camp in a big luxurious travel trailer either. No sir! It's strictly primitive, as in a tent and a sleeping bag.

"I love the outdoors. I love to get out and I love to go fishing," explained Trotter, who was on a solo camping trip recently at Addison Oaks County Park, north of Rochester in Oakland County.

"This is the first time I've been here, but I'll definitely be back. It's really great out here and it's only nine miles from Rochester. The OPC (Older Persons Center in Rochester) van will bring me out here. Then they'll come back in a few days and pick me up."

Other than the proximity and the availability of transportation, there were other things that lured Trotter to Addison Oaks.

"I really like it here," Trotter said. "Everything is pretty close. The showers are close, the fishing is close, the campsites are nice and clean and they're big. You have your privacy, but you're never too far away from others. They even have handicapped showers, which are nice. The only thing that blew my mind was that it costs \$2.25 to take a shower."

MARK AND BEV Pangrace drove all the way down from Algonac to spend the weekend at Addison Oaks with their three sons, 8-year-old Adam, 7-year-old Joey and 2-year-old Andrew.

"We used to live in Rochester, but we moved to Algonac three months ago," explained Mark. "We've been here before and we really liked it so here we are, back again."

Bev, a cautious mother, was happy with the facilities the park offers children.

"The beach is really nice for the kids. It's well guarded and the kids can have a lot of fun," she said. "They also have a lot of other things for kids to do. They had a hay ride on Friday night and a movie on Saturday. They have a playground with swings and bars and slides."

Added Mark, "They even come around at night with firewood for anyone who needs it."

MARY MILMINE, of Mt. Clemens, arrived at the park with her three children — 18-year-old Anthony, 16-year-old Tracey, and 14-year-old Louanna — on Friday afternoon under stressful conditions. Her car broke down at the park entrance and she was scheduled to set up camp, then pick her husband Richard up from work in "less than two hours."

But, since campers are usually always ready to lend a helping hand, it only took a couple minutes to find help. A few moments later, the Milmines were back on the road, heading for their primitive campsite.

"I've never met a camper that wasn't ready to help," observed Trotter, who admitted she usually needs a little help setting up her tent. "I've never had a hard time finding help. That's the nature of campers."

By Saturday afternoon, the Milmines were relaxing and enjoying the weekend.

"This is a really nice park," said Richard. "It's one of the nicest I've ever seen. Everybody is not right on top of each other. You have your privacy. The beach is nice — they have boat rental and fishing. For rustic camping, this is really a nice campsite. I certainly want to come back here again. It's the only park I know of that delivers wood (for fires) right to the campsite. I'd rather come here than go to a state park."

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS accept no reservations. Camping is strictly on a first-come first-serve basis. Still, the park fills up nearly every weekend.

"We're usually a little slow early in the year, but by mid-season we're filling up pretty steady," explained Addison Oaks park supervisor Frank Ostrowski. "We get about a 50/50 mix of county resident and non-county residents. The thing that's nice is that you don't have to drive all the miles (to go up north) and you can still go camping in the woods."

And woods they are, with deer, rabbits, raccoons and even an occasional skunk roaming the park grounds.

"There are a lot of (wild) animals here," Ostrowski said. "We even have one little skunk that shows up every now and then looking for handouts (food). A lot of people have seen him, but he has never bothered or sprayed anyone."

Spots to pitch your tent

By Bill Parker
staff writer

Driving hundreds of miles to a secluded campground somewhere in northern Michigan is a tempting thought to most avid campers.

But to make a trip like that you need time. Time to drive up and time to drive back. A weekend jaunt is almost out of the question. Even a three day weekend seems a little cramped when you have to spend hours on the road.

But there is a solution. There is a way to beat the clock and avoid a

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timely road trip. Camp close to home.

JUST BECAUSE the parks are

close to home, don't expect to camp in an urban environment.

Oakland County Parks offer quality camping at both Addison Oaks, north of Rochester, and Groveland Oaks, in Holly.

"What makes our campground popular is that you don't have to drive 100 miles to go camping," said Groveland Oaks park supervisor Clyde Herb. "We have a lot of people that camp here and commute back-and-forth to work. It's a good place for the kids in the summer, too. We have a lot of activities for them out here."

"The thing that's nice is that you don't have to drive all those miles and you can still be out in the woods," said Frank Ostrowski, park supervisor at Addison Oaks.

Both parks offer a variety of facilities including modern campsites (which include a cement slab for recreational vehicle parking, on site electricity and running water), semi-modern sites (wooded lots and on site electricity) and primitive sites (no luxuries). The parks are open to



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Mary Milmine of Mt. Clemens was able to set up camp at Addison Oaks with her three children, despite her car breaking down earlier in the day.

the public, with Oakland County residents receiving a small break in usage fees.

"We get a pretty good mix of county and non-county residents," Ostrowski said.

ADDISON OAKS, nine miles north of Rochester on Romeo Road in Oxford, is a 770-acre facility with 140 campsites (80 modern, 23 semi-modern, 23 primitive and 44 group campsites). On holidays and crowded weekends there is also a two-acre boy scout camping area that can be opened and used as a primitive camping area.

The park also features boat rental, fishing (pike, bass, pan fish), a sandy

beach, picnic shelters, charcoal grills, hiking trails, a concession area (complete with milk, bread, ice and goodies) and showers. Most of these facilities are handicap accessible.

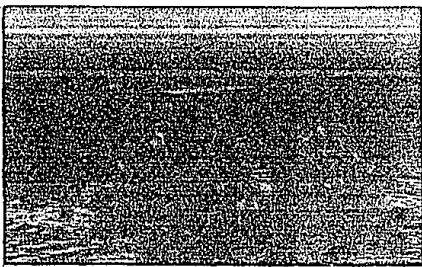
There are also volleyball courts, a baseball field, horse shoe courts, hay rides and a popular movie on week-end evenings at the concession stand. Semi-modern and primitive camp sites are very private, surrounded on three sides by wooded lots. Fire wood is available and can be dropped off right at the campsite.

GROVELAND OAKS, at 5990 Grange Hall Road in Holly, is a 365-acre facility featuring 600 camp-

sites. The campsites aren't as secluded as those at Addison Oaks, but the park is equally clean and uncluttered.

Groveland Oaks features 112 modern sites, 85 semi-modern sites, 103 primitive sites and 200 group sites.

Groveland Oaks also offers fishing and boat rental (canoes, paddle boats and row boats) on 30 acre Stewart Lake, picnic shelters and charcoal grills. There is a sandy beach for swimming, the only water slide in the county that empties into a lake, a volleyball court, a basketball court, arts and craft activities, an evening movie, a disc jockey, hay rides, showers, a concession stand, play-ground equipment and a games area.



Addison Oaks County Park, which is north of Rochester, has plenty to offer for campers.

Gentleman's game can drive you batty

Cricket game of choice for group on Belle Isle

By LeAnne Rogers
staff writer

A game in which style is as important as scoring, a gentleman's game for which the players wear white.

That's the way cricket was described by the late Walter Heron, a leading cricket booster in the Detroit area.

One of the two cricket teams based in Detroit, formerly the Detroit Cricket Club, was renamed the Walter Heron Cricket Team of Detroit following Heron's death in 1988.

"Walter lived and breathed cricket," said team manager Ken Mirjah. "It was a real shock to us when he died. We had never known cricket in Detroit without Walter."

Often called the national sport of Britain, cricket has been played on Belle Isle for many years. No one is sure exactly when cricket arrived in Detroit, but teams have active in the area for more than 40 years, possibly as many as 60 years.

"Basically, as long as there have been West Indians in Detroit, there has been cricket," said Mirjah. "Most of our players are from the West Indies, Pakistan and India. We get a few British guys."

Team captain Nabeel Ahmed likened the popularity of cricket in Britain and its former colonies to the popularity of baseball in America.

"Most of the players we have grew up with cricket. I've played cricket since I was three or four years old," he said. "I've always played cricket. Here, people grew up playing baseball."

MIRJAH ECHOES the comments of his teammate.

"The saying is that you get cricket in your blood," he added.

For a cricket match, each team fields 11 players along with one extra player, although substitutions are rare.

One team takes the field, including a bowler, and pitches to a batsman from the opposing team.

Two batsmen are on the field at a

time, one being pitched to while the other stands near the bowler. Three sticks, known as wickets, are placed 22 yards apart at the center of the cricket field, with the bowler and pitcher at opposite ends.

The bowler is pitched to the red leather-covered ball into the wickets, which will retire the batsman, Ahmed said. The batsman wants to hit the ball but avoid the wicket, which can be caught to get him out.

"Bowlers in cricket have different specialties," Mirjah said. "It's like a pitcher in baseball has different balls."

One difference from baseball is that bowlers and fielders in cricket don't wear gloves. After being hit with the small hardball, Ahmed said he needed stitches in his chin. Mirjah suffered a broken finger after being hit by a ball.

"The batsman hits as hard as you would a baseball," Mirjah said. "The swing of the batsman is more like a golf swing than a baseball swing."

There are several ways to score points in cricket. A ball hit into the air but not caught is worth six runs, while ground balls are worth four runs.

POINTS CAN also be earned by the two batsmen, who cross over to the opposite wickets while the ball is

in play.

A run is earned each time a cross-over can be completed, but the batsman is out if the opposing team can recover the ball and knock down the wickets before the batsman reaches them.

In cricket, a batsman continues at bat until he is retired and the team stays at bat until all the batsmen are

out. Under the one-day rules, one team bats until it is retired, 240 pitches have been made or 2 1/2 hours elapses, whichever comes first.

Prior to the one-day rules being established, cricket matches could last five days. Professional teams often still play under those rules.

After a half-hour meal break, the opposing team bats and the same

conditions apply.

"When an American friend, a baseball player, got involved, he thought cricket was more exciting," Ahmed said. "In baseball, if you hit a home run you are out (of action). In cricket, you keep hitting until they get you out."

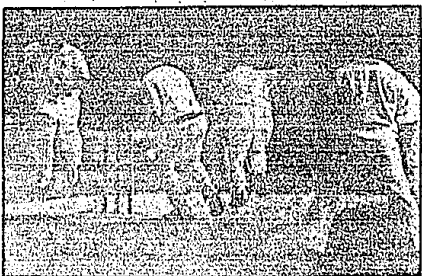
For five years, what is now called the Walter Heron team has participated in the Southern Ontario Cricket Association and has taken the championship four of those years.

Cricket could become a more widely played game, Ahmed said, through school and recreational programs that would introduce the sport to youngsters.

"WE ARE talking about a whole day being tied up, and in our league we can drive up to three hours for a game," Mirjah said. "It does make it hard for some people. We do it because we love it."

The team, along with the Michigan Cricket Club, plays its home games on weekends at Belle Isle. Spectators are always welcome and people interested in playing can come to practices on Wednesdays at about 5:30 on Belle Isle.

"We are in front of the camera now where they are working on the fountain," said Mirjah. "You can't miss us. We are the guys in white."



GUY WATSON/staff photographer

Yogin Amin tries to beat the pitcher to the wicket after connecting for a hit in a cricket match on Belle Isle.