

TRAVEL

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Good eats, tunes at Ohio restaurant

He introduces them as we order our beer. Music students from the Conservatory of Music. Singers from the touring company of the New York City Opera. Mezzo-sopranos from Dayton. Baritone from Houston and Portland and Chicago.

We are at Forest View Gardens, which has entertained Cincinnati with its baritone and bratwurst for half a century. The last time I was here, several years ago, Kurt Seybold was master of ceremonies. His wife Trudie was going table to table with a smile in her voice and Jack Frost, also known as Mr. Oktoberfest, was on the accordion.

The place is bigger now, but as we squeezed in behind the red-checkered tablecloth I heard Kurt say "And her is Mr. Oktoberfest."

It's reassuring to know that some things in the world don't change.

It was Trudy's mother, Jennie Klose, a native of Bavaria, who opened this place as Forest View Gardens in 1940 and put it on the map. It was Trudy, a graduate of the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music, who started hiring young musicians and singers from opera departments of music schools as waiters and waitresses.

A young man told us the specials of the day and recommended the "Hacker-Pschorn Weiss Beer."

"You drink, you die," Kurt boomed into the microphone. "You don't drink, you still die!"

"And now, Mario!"

I looked up and the waiter was sending clear strong notes across the room. This was not the voice of someone who just "loved to sing."

"Just give me 10, who are stouthearted men, and I'll soon give you 10,000 more!" He sang me all the way through Trudy's sauerkraut balls.

By the time the next young waiter finished his song, we were teeth-first into Emmen-thaler fried cheese.

Carl had introduced the tables, so the birthday party and the bus tour and the church group chattered over tables as the young soprano in the Bavarian dirndl skirt and the tied bodice sang "One More Time."

Each singer was briefly on cue. In the spotlight. The next time we saw them they were gliding past the tables with trays of food and drink held high in the air.

Sometimes a singer got tired of competing with the thump of glass steins and the rattle of forks and gave a shout, startling us to attention.

There was a stir. A buxom blonde was moving between the table. Trudy specialized in choral singing, sang in the opera at Philadelphia and Miami, but she doesn't sing here.

As she circled the room, Kurt started leading the crowd in a hand-clapping rafter-lifting song.

"Well, we didn't get many up for the polka. How about the chicken?"

I'm not going to do that, I said to myself.

"OK," Kurt said, "if you don't want the chicken, let's do the hokey pokey!"

So we put the left foot in and the left foot out and the left foot in and we shook it all about, and we did the hokey and we turned around, and that's what it's all about at Forest View.

Trudy was at the mike, then, introducing tonight's stage show, a 40-minute stretch of entertainment, "the only time we ask you to be quiet."

If you like sauerkraut balls, oom-pa-pa and waiters who can sing their hearts out, you'll find Forest View Gardens at 4508 North Bend Road, not far west of I-75. Call them at (513) 661-6434. Wiener schnitzel costs \$13.95.



MICKY JONES

Moppet museum not just for kids

By Mary Guinley
staff writer

Grown-ups take note: The Children's Museum of Indianapolis is not for children only. This museum captures the attention of all ages. As families arrive, the learning adventure begins in the parking lot.

Bring your green, brown and clear glass bottles to toss in the recycling bins located in one corner. Moving closer to the front entrance, take a minute to pause near a small pond that is home to several species of snakes and turtles (not the teenage mutant ninja variety).

If your timing is right, you can watch a museum attendant feed the water snakes bite-size chunks of fish. Once inside the museum, eyes are drawn upward to the colorful banner draped from the ceiling: "OUR MISSION IS TO ENRICH THE LIFE OF CHILDREN."

The museum's five floors overflow with exhibits and demonstrations from toy trains and miniature doll houses to dinosaur bones and rubber bowling balls. Parents are relieved to see "PLEASE TOUCH" signs scattered among the displays. The paper doll exhibit includes television cowboy stars Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. (Hey Mom and Dad — who are these guys?)

Don't let anyone try to tell you you're not really in a cave as they cool droplets of water bounce off your head. Located in the Natural Science Hall, the cave provides a narrow passageway. Caution: light squeeze ahead. Try not to get stuck as you slide between the rock formations!

Baby quails, a desecrated skunk and a tarantula are just a few of the live animals in the Science Hall reminding visitors of a mini-zoo. Allison, an albino raccoon, is one of the museum's newest residents.

The all-wood Dentzel Carousel (circa 1917), a national historic landmark, is reminiscent of a carnival. (Ages 3-12 only)

on the "jumpers.") Children giggle, parents wave and grandparents snap photos as this beautifully maintained merry-go-round circles on its platform.

Activities seem almost endless to the 1.6 million people that visit each year. Write your name with hieroglyph, picture symbols used by the ancient Egyptians. Balance your weight as you try to walk on the giant lever. Build an energy-efficient house by using a computer.

Discover the gallery of African-American scientist inventors from A to Z. Walk through a Victorian railway depot to view a 19th-century locomotive. Touch a leg bone of the giant mastodon.

Want more? Stroll through an architectural reproduction of the street of Indianapolis where shop displays depict life of the 1830s one-room log cabin. Imagine how different your world would be if you lived there. Stop at the Science Spectrum where more than 40 hands-on exhibits beckon the visitor: "TOUCH ME!"

Visit the SpaceQuest Planetarium. Here families can sit and enjoy the show under a 20-foot-high domed ceiling. The program, entitled Time Trek, features computerized images with an impressive sound track.

Visitors in the 10-18 year range will particularly enjoy the Ekl Lilly Center for Exploration. This gallery, the largest in the museum, offers a media lab, darkroom, woodwork shop and arts area. Bring your ear plugs. The noise is deafening if you happen to stop and watch as aluminum cans are mechanically separated from steel cans.

If you're looking for a somewhat quieter activity, try some trivia. Can you think of four names for "iceboos?" Answer: anchor, barrow wagon, ape wagon and brain cage. Do you know what form of transportation is the most energy efficient? Answer: the bicycle.

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Visitors to the Children's Museum in Indianapolis, Ind., watch the 30-foot-high water clock do its thing (above) and check out the "whisper disc" (at right).

Cincinnati museum adds exhibit on World War II

Cincinnati goes to war April 20 when the Cincinnati History Museum opens a 9,000-square-foot \$1-million exhibit called Cincinnati Goes to War: A Community Responds To World War II. The exhibit was designed and fabricated by Design Craftsmen Inc., of Midland, and will be on view through 1995.

The exhibit has been under construction all winter in the Museum Center at Cincinnati Union Terminal, a marvelous old art-deco railway station saved from destruction by an innovative idea. It's now the home of Cincinnati Historical Soci-

ety and Cincinnati Museum of Natural History.

Cincinnati Goes to War, commemorating the 50th anniversary of America's entry into World War II, studies life on the home front during that period.

If this is your first time down I-75 since Museum Center opened last fall, you should definitely find time to detour and take a look.

For information on goings-on in Cincinnati, call the Cincinnati Convention and Visitors Bureau toll-free at (800) 543-2613.



Micky Jones took this award-winning picture.

Jones rakes in photo awards

Farmington Hills travel photographer Micky Jones, whose pictures frequently adorn this page, has won several awards for his photography.

The accompanying photo of two tourists having a mud bath on the beach beside the Dead Sea in Israel won a Silver Award in the annual photography competition of the Society of American Travel Writers last fall, where it competed with pictures submitted by professional photographers, newspapers and magazines nationwide.

The same photograph, in black and white, won him honors in the annual photo contest held by the Central States Chapter of SATW

this spring in Charleston, S.C., where he won five of their 12 first-place honors.

SATW is an organization of travel writers, editors and photographers from newspapers, magazines and guide books throughout the U.S. The central states contest was open to members from 20 states, stretching from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico and from Ohio to Nebraska.

Jones' photographs competed with pictures published in magazines ranging from Michigan Living to Better Homes & Gardens, and in newspapers like the Chicago Tribune and the Dallas Morning News.

Jones won first place in the following categories: the color-print category for animals and wildlife; the color-slide category for animals and wildlife and for action/humor; for black-and-white prints in the animal-and-wildlife and action/humor categories.

He also won second- or third-place certificates for color slides in the animal-and-wildlife category; color prints in the places/scenes category; black-and-white prints in the action and the places/scenes category and an honorable mention for color slides in the people category.

Many of these winning photographs appeared on the Observer & Eccentric travel pages.