# TRAVEL

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#### Iris Jones

#### Clowning around at Magic Get-together

This is the time of year when most of us like to slow down and savor summer. Photograph the water birds in Kensington Park. Take a picnic to the nearest stretch of grass. Let the sun shine on our faces and forget that the grass at home still needs to be mown.

If you have more active ambitions, there are a million things to do in Michigan.

MAGIC GET-TOGETHER

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You might know him as Milky the Clown. In
Colon, where he goes every year to Abbott's
annual Magic Get-together he is known as
Clare Cummings. The get-together is Aug. 7-10
this year.
Clare is 80 years old now. He has lived in
Birmingham since 1917, when "it wasn't much
more than a one-horse town." He fell in love
with magic when he was 8 years old, got a
Mysto Magic set for Christmas and was soon
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By age 13 he was performing for Boy Scout troops and hanging around with a magician called George Pullin, who passed on all of his professional equipment to the budding magician.

"When I was getting ready to go into the service during World War II. I knew I had to go to Colon," Cummings said. "The magic performers used to go there on a Saturday afternoon in summer. My girlifrend Peg, now my wife, went with me to Abbott's Gettogether in Colon in 1942.

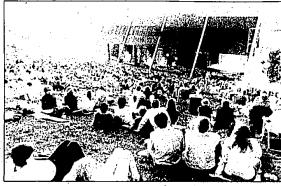
"They held the get-together in the opera house then, but the festival was so popular that the opera house soon wasn't big enough. By the time I came back after the war in 1946, they were holding it in a tent. The tent burned down and it moved out of town."

Cummings became Milky the Clown after Twin Pines Farm Dairy discovered him doing a marionetic and liver rabbit show called Peter, Clare and Oscar. "They wanted a magiclan and clown." I performed on television from behind a table, so I was only a clown from the wast up."

For Information on the Magic Get-together, call Abbotts Magic Co. at (616) 132-3235.

Artpark had its gala opening in 1974. It is funded by New York State's Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation through the National Heritage Trust.





Artpark in Lewiston, N.Y., is just downstream from Niagara Falls. The theater building seats 2,300. At large performances or during very performances or during very warm weather, the back wall of the building opens up like a garage door, and spectators can sit on the hill.

## New York's Experience the art of creation

Sally Sawyer is a playwright and amateur theater director from West Bloomfield.

By Sally Sawyer special writer

There are paintings, but there are no walls. There are artists, but they are under the trees. If you would flux to introduce your family to hands on and face-to-face art in a natural setting, you will find that experience at Artpark in Lewiston, N.Y. It is just downstream from Niagara Falls.
Walk the perimeter of the park advoustered from Niagara Falls.
Walk the perimeter of the park and you'll see large art works in progress. "Omega," a very popular finished piece, has been on loan from the New York artist Owen Morrel since June 1980. Morrel trained at Cranbrook Art Academy in Bloomtleid Hills. "Omega" is 110 feet long, 42 feet

platform is at a 7-foot angle. Mirrors reflect the water below and the clouds above. It took me 15 minutes to get to the top, heeding the cheering section below. "Don't look down!" Once aloli, 1 experiencering feeling. No funhouse on Halloween could have been more exciting!
Near "Omega" is an outsized sandpile for toddlers and a working forge where a sweat-beaded smithly hammers plg-fron into shapes. While in the woods, you may visit the turtie-shaped Indian burlal mound. In clearances are the theater-in-thewoods and The Performance Center where University of Ningara drama students in multicolored overalls have fun with audiences and get invaluable experience. Bring a basket lunch, find a picnie bench and be entertained

while you eat.
Delicious smells and growing
appetites drew us to The Eatery in the
Art El, a huge covered wooden ramp

with many levels, where all sorts of "making art together" activities happen near the upper parking level. While sipping sun tea and eating spinach pie, we hear the rhythmic beat of an African drum and an eerle

spinater pie, we heat the hydrine pie, we heat of an African drum and an eerle pipe, walling to help children create dance stories and music. The children make the instruments themselves from large plastic pop bottles and cardboard tubes.

At Arripar's you will find glited young people like Selfanie Samuels of Ann Arbor. A granted artist-linesidence last year, she works mainly in clay, concrete and glass and was chosen not only for her many professional credits but for her affability. We found her takking freely with children in "the Clay Place" and showing them those with their bands.

Steffig graduced in 1983 from Steffig graduced in 1983 from processions.

with their hands.
Steffie graduated in 1983 from
University of Michigan in ceramics
and Asian studies. She started out

studying law and has always had a keen interest in Jazz. The evening crowd at Artpark is entirely different; all spit and polish. They are at one of the most unusual theaters and performance spaces in the country. Amazingly, the price is nominal.

the country. Amazingly, the price is nominal.

The theater is a permanent building, seating 2,300, built near the bottom of a hill. At large performances or during very warm weather, the back wall of the building opens up like a garage door, and lawn seating up the hill can be sold. (The theater las no air conditioning or heat)

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The season opened June 5 with Big River, the family oriented musical about Huck Finn.
Attpark charges a daytime workshop pass (ee, \$3.50 for adults, \$2 for children plus a \$3 parking fee. The park is open through Aug. 25. For a brochure, write Artpark, Box 371, Lewiston, N.Y., 14092.

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