The Observer & Eccentric[®] Newspapers

RAVEL

PAGE 7A★★(6A★)(B,RO,F-9A)



Summer's busting out all over state

By Iris Sanderson Jones special writer

Do you har the voices rising around you? "It's August already" "What happened to summer?" "Do you realize it is only four our and the program of the summer is disappearing too fast, get your penell and your calendar out and get busy. Summer activ-ilies are at their peak in Michigan this month, so you could do something every day if you want to overdose on sumhing activities. Three of the "1981 Celebrate! The Great Lakes Festivals" are yet to come. The Michi-gan Travel Bureau picket these festivals as highlights this year, so they should be good.

an Travel Bureau picked these feativals as highlights this year, so they should be good. THE ANTIQUE WOODEN BOAT SHOW and Festival of Arts will be Aug. 10 in Hessel, the gateway to an archipelago of 35 islands that dot the northernmost waters of Lake the gateway to an archipelago of 35 islands that dot the northernmost waters of Lake and the source of the source of the trave come from as far away as Florida and California. The boats range from powerboats and sail-boats to dinghies, haunches, cruises and cances, some are varnished, polished jewels with accatury. Only in Michigan! The UPPER PENINSULA STATE FAIR will be in full swing Aug. 3-16 in Escanaba, a popular tourist town at the mouth of the Little say come, I will have all the traditional state fair activities: agricultural, industrial, boats to Sign and recreational displays, bar-becused, gath and recreational displays, bar-becused, gath and recreational displays, bar-becused, gath Siggr candy. THE MONTHEUX DETRET JAZE FESTI-VAL will wing Aug. 21 in Defan. So the lattle up Aug. 25 to Sept. 2 in Defan. Jack free than three quarters of a not be largest free jazz und the fir activities and the largest free jazz und be fir activities and the largest free jazz und and the Great Lases Festival series up Aug. 25 to Sept. 2 in Defan. Jack poly three quarters of a not be largest free jazz and that's only three of the largest free jazz and that's only three of the thangs going on in Michigan.

You can spend \$20 on a vanishing pitcher of milk or about \$2,500 to make a lovely female assistant vanish (which may seem counterproductive). If it is a live ele-phant you want to disappear, Abbott's can help you create this illusion, as it did both for a television show and for the

It's magic

Colon's Get-together

features tricks, treats

It's no Illusion! There's magic in the air in southwest Michigan when the tiny town of Colon holds the annual Magic Get-Together Aug 7-10. Colon is the home of Abbott's Magic Co., an unusual busi-

ness that makes and sells magic tricks, puts on magic shows for visitors and stages this huge annual magic festi-

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and turn bored "are we there yets" into "awesomes." Colon styles itself "The Magic Capital of the World." There's a street named Biackstone (in hoor of magician Harry Biackstone Sr. who made his home there from 1525 until 1958). Magic Carpet cocktail louge and Magic City hardware store. The high school team is called the Running Rabbits, and there's even a graveyard with some unusual headstones that magicians are dying to get into. Alfable Greg Bordner runs Abbott's, co-founded by his father in 1524. The showroom is housed in a cinder block building, its stark black walls adorned wilk painted while skeletons. Inside, shelves and showcases are cranmed with magic tricks and books on magic, and walls are covered with photographs and assorted magic memorabilia. The ceiling is a museum piece entirely covered with posters, most of them originals, many of them rare, valued at \$30,000.

There's a small stage where Greg and his sales staff — all professional magicians — put on magic shows. If you're part of a group, you can arrange a show in advance. Or you can simply walk in unanounced and browse. One of the resident magicians is always on hand to demonstrate tricks. The shop carries about 100 magic tricks that cost only 12 and two dozen or so that you can buy for a buck. There also are gift sets with multiple tricks. About's claims to be the world's largest magic manu-facturing company, and keeps 15 emplyees buy y pro-ducing a line of magic products that ranges from leappen-sive novelites to ambitious likulans that market for sever-al hundred dollars. It also publishes about 200 books and pamphlets on magic and offers a 506-page, 3-pound cata-log.

By Mike Michaelson

special write

\$30,000.

this illusion, as it die boin for a television show and for the Broadway start, doo More than 1,000 maglcians converge on Colon for the annual Magic Get-Together Aug. 7-10, literally doubling the population of the tiny town. "This annual event has been going on for more than 50 years." Said Bordner.



Munum.

O&E MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 1991

Greg Bordner, who runs Abbott's Magic Co. in Colon, holds a bouquet of flowers that appears In an empty tube and costs \$225.



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