

Museum shows postal history



"Pony Express to 48202: The Story of Detroit Mail" is the title of the current postal service exhibit at the Detroit Historical Museum, Woodward and Kirby, Detroit, presented in cooperation with the U.S. Postal Service in Detroit in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the International Postal Union.

The exhibit runs through Nov. 13. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

The exhibit contains historical photographs, documents and artifacts relating to the mechanization of letter carrying beginning with the first delivery via horseback from Toledo to Detroit on Jan. 1, 1803.

A number of first day issues and special commemorative stamps such as the Seaway Issue; Detroit's 250th Birthday Stamp;

Wheels of Freedom and the "Love" commemorative, the post office's most popular stamp, are shown.

Post card collectors will be interested in the exhibit devoted to the Detroit Publishing Company which grew from its founding in 1890 to become one of the foremost post card printers in the U.S.

The high quality of their color reproduction made them more popular than other types and upwards of seven million cards were printed annually in the early 1900's. Samples of these fine cards and later cards using different printing techniques are on display.

The display includes the story of the J. W. Westcott Company, Detroit's Marine Post Office in operation since 1874 to deliver mail and other goods to ships, a unique and Detroit first service.

When inaugurated, an intrepid young man would row out to a swiftly moving freighter and tie up

alongside. Today the company has a special post office section for sorting marine mail, its own zip code — 48222, and the diesel powered cruiser J. W. Westcott II operates 24 hours a day during the navigation season.

Accompanying labels on the exhibit give interesting historical data on the Detroit postal service such as:

Free delivery of mail by carriers initiated October 1864 with 20 carriers serving the 70,000 residents of Detroit, and the introduction of mailboxes throughout the city.

Prior to that crowds would gather at the post office at mail time and it was not uncommon to wait an hour in line.

Use of uniforms for mail carriers originated in Detroit in the 1860's.

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State to promote recreation safety

An expanded program to promote and coordinate outdoor recreational safety training in the Upper Peninsula and southeast Michigan recently was mobilized by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

George Dahl, DNR law division chief, cited increased interest in hunting, snowmobiling and boating as reasons for the expanded program. The outdoor recreational safety program is designed to teach young people how to safely enjoy these sports.

PROGRAM coordinators are: Charles R. LeValley, based in the Detroit area, for southeast Michigan; and John D. Snyder, Jr., at Marquette, for the Upper Penn.

LeValley, a native of Lakewood, N. J., began his career with the DNR in 1966 as a conservation officer in the downriver Wayne County area. He attended Western Michigan University and is a World War II veteran.

Madwoman of Chailloit" are being prepared in shorter versions to tour schools to aid English teachers.

Further information about tickets or touring plays may be obtained by phoning 644-4418.

Theater offers mystery

Will-O-Way Repertory Theatre will open its September schedule for weekend playgoers Sunday with an old mystery-melodrama, "The cat and the Canary" by John Willard.

The Sunday opening will climax the final weekend of Repertory: Shakespeare's "Richard III" on Friday; and Jean Giraudoux's "The Madwoman of Chailloit", on Saturday. Curtain is at 8 p.m.

"The Cat and the Canary" is one of the most successful of mystery melodramas. The family of Ambrose West go to his castle on the Hudson to attend the reading if his will at midnight, just 20 years after his death.

"THE CAT and the Canary" will run Friday and Saturday Aug. 30, 31; Sept. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28; with an 8 p.m. curtain, at the Will-o-Way Theatre, 775 West Long Lake Rd., in Bloomfield Hills.

Both "Richard III" and "The

J. C. Heard to appear

J. C. Heard — "the world's second best drummer" — has returned to Panny's in the Troy Hilton with his new group "J. C. Heard and His Heard's" until Sept. 2.

J. C. Heard is a native Detroit who left town in 1938 for New York City where the "big band" sound was just warming up.

The accomplished vocalist and percussionist crisscrossed the globe for more than 20 years making music with such greats as Duke Ellington, Woody Herman, Louis Armstrong, Count Basie and Cab Calloway, among others.

Heard traveled throughout the U.S., Europe and the Far East with the Jazz Philharmonic. In 1953, Buddy Rich, Gene Krupa and Heard staged a three-way "drum battle" at Carnegie Hall.

He characterizes his music as "the good music sound. It's music ranging from the 1930s up to the present that will appeal to both young and old audiences."

The Troy Hilton Inn is located at Maple Road and Stephenson Highway in Troy.

"J. C. Heard and His Heard's" featuring Gwen Wells will appear Monday through Saturday. Backing up Heard is guitarist Jimmy Morgan, organist Bobby Cook and Ms. Wells doing vocals.

MR. WEST had been fearful that a touch of insanity ran in his family. Annabelle West, played by Eileen Therese Weiss, resident teacher at Will-O-Way is made sole heir of the West millions.

One fearful night ensues as the other five heirs try to break the will by proving her insane. The play is being produced in the costumes of 1921, and in keeping with the times, not a word has been changed in the script.

Feller to entertain

Songwriter and entertainer Dick Feller will appear in his Midwest premier through Sept. 1 at The Raven Gallery, 29101 Greenfield Road, Southfield. Show times are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday at 9:30 and 10:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday at 9:30 and 11:30 p.m. Feller is a songwriter who has composed tunes for Johnny Cash, Jimmie Rodgers and Hank Williams. He is a guitarist and singer, and records for United Artists Rainbow Collection. Information about the show may be obtained by calling 557-2622.

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