

Michigan mirror

Plucking apples cheap, healthy fun

By ELMER E. WHITE

Plucking a bushel of crisp red apples from heavily-laden trees can

be a fun, inexpensive—even money-saving—way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

The pick-your-own pastime that's collected more and more fans in recent years appears headed for even greater popularity this season—especially if the Department of Agriculture and Michigan Tourist Council have anything to say about it.

They've put together a booklet called "Country Carousels" that lists seven "hours" of Michigan as well as countless places that offer folks a chance to collect their own apples and other fruits.

Classified ads also tell you where to pick.

WHAT'S SO GREAT about picking your own?

It's fun, that's what. At some orchards, you'll be strapped into a "lug," the canvas shoulder bag you pick into, then empty into a bushel bucket. At others, there's a chance to ride out into the orchard on a wooden rig pulled by a tractor.

There's also the price. Figure four apples to a pound, selling for 29 cents a pound. If you get 124 apples a bushel—Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service says there are 125-150 in a bushel—for \$4.75 (the going price at one Lansing area orchard), that's quite a savings. Those 124 apples could cost well over \$7 on a per pound basis.

First in the nation in production of Spys, Jonathans and Wealthies, That's Michigan, according to the Agriculture Department's booklet about Michigan Food Facts, 1974.

The booklet says the state ranks fourth in total apple production, and also stands near the top in apple processing.

Candidate gains 4 votes in recount

OAKLAND COUNTY—An unsuccessful candidate in the primary race for the Michigan Court of Appeals spent \$3,000 for a recount of 617 precincts in the state, only to learn he had gained four votes statewide.

Not only did Macomb County Circuit Court Judge Walter B. Cynar not pick up enough votes to earn a place on the November ballot, but three of the four candidates who bested him gained more votes by the recount than Cynar.

Like any other candidate who requests a recount, Cynar was charged \$5 for each rechecked precinct.

CYNAR WAS AMONG 15 candidates seeking nominations in the second division race for Michigan Court of Appeals. With two positions to be filled by voters in November, the top four vote-getters placed on the fall ballot.

CYNAR FINISHED a close fifth and hoped that the massive recount—which included most of the precincts in Oakland County—would uncover enough mistakes to make him a winner.

The reverse happened. Cynar finished even farther behind the leading candidates.

Michigan's 1973 apple crop of 140 million pounds was valued at nearly \$38 million.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT. Hunters, there's a market of sorts for the bills and feathers of your legally-taken game birds.

A Missoula, Mont., woman wants them donated for use in North American Indian religious ceremonies. So reports the Department of Natural Resources.

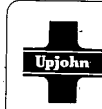
The appeal for bills and feathers comes through the DNR (from Ms. Sapphire Concern of Missoula).

"She will see to it that game bird feathers and bills sent to her by sportsmen are distributed to spiritual leaders of tribes in North America on an 'as-needed basis,'" the department says.

Along with the appeal comes the explanation that, while feathers and bird bills are commonly used in North American Indian religious ceremonies,

they are reportedly in short supply among these tribes because it is illegal to buy or sell such items from many non-game bird species in the U.S.

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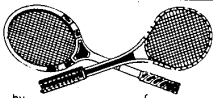
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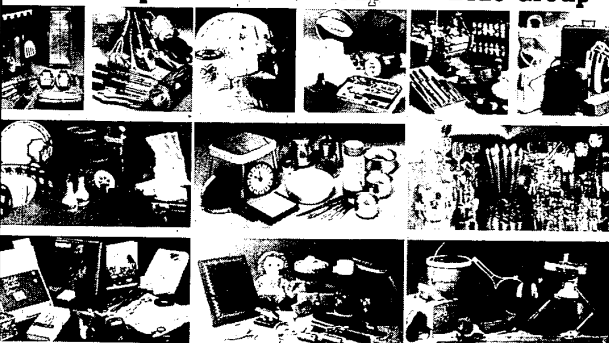
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