

# Sea pilot guides foreign ships through local waters

By JUDITH BERNE

James Ray has the kind of job which used to stump the panel on early television's "What's My Line" program. The West Bloomfield resident wears a coat and tie to work but has no office. He carries a brief case which contains a six-channel UHF transceiver, change of underwear and maps. He may arrive at work via train, cab or boat.

Ray has never been to Europe, South America or Asia, yet he counts friends and has sampled the authentic cuisines of those continents.

What does he do?

RAY IS one of a small band of registered pilots paid by the United States government to guide foreign ships through local waters.

When the St. Lawrence Seaway opened 20 years ago, our government felt the need to provide compulsory pilotage of foreign ships," Ray reports. "Foreign vessels aren't allowed to negotiate U.S. waters on their own."

So for three weeks each month during the shipping season (April 1-Dec. 15), Ray is at the helm of foreign ships which travel Lake Erie, the Detroit and St. Clair rivers to just north of Port Huron's Blue Water Bridge.

Although he doesn't take the wheel himself, he directs the ship's course through area waters as "advisor" to the ship's captain.

Average size of the foreign vessels is 650 feet with a crew of 33, according to Ray.

An average trip lasts 15 hours and includes meals, lodging and conversation with foreign officers and crew members of ships from around the world.

All officers are required to speak English, according to Ray, and 95 percent of the crew has mastered it. "English is getting to be the international language," he says, "especially of the sea."

As far as enjoyment, "the Greeks are it," Ray says.

"That's an interesting part of the job — meeting people from all over the world," he says, "and finding out that their kids' problems are the same as yours."

Ray was surprised when he became good friends with a Russian officer "who is a family man just like me."

The human condition "is so international," he says. "If there was one language in this world, it would solve a lot of problems. Everyone would understand everyone else."

Great Lakes captains, reportedly close to \$70,000.

The only drawback is few people understand his work.

Sons Jim and Michael and daughter Linda "are still trying to explain to their friends what I do."

Recently he met a local "boat buff" who asked his help in putting together a six-foot model of a Great Lakes freighter.

"It's so interesting when someone asks about what you know," Ray reports.

## Rosenbaum turns 90

Gad Rosenbaum, a resident in Farmington Nursing Home, was 90 years old on April 15, but the event was not celebrated until a month later.

He will be given the "Celebration of Life Award" during the American College of Nursing Home Administrators convention in the Renaissance Center, making him the nursing home resident of the year in the nation.

Rosenbaum is a co-founder of Acorn

Iron Works.

Just a few days before that, an open house for relatives and friends was hosted by his son and daughter-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Edward Rosenbaum of Southfield to celebrate the combination birthday and award occasion.

Children from out of town who came for the double celebration are Dr. and Mrs. David Kost of Florida and Mr. and Mrs. Yudo Galahny of Massachusetts.

## Photography show runs through May 30

Jim Young's photographs, both framed and unframed, will be featured in Spectrum Gallery during the month of May.

"Photography is my expression of space," Young said. "I attempt to convey that space which one might feel when standing on a mountain summit; that endless space which is felt deep within."

"If a photograph has space and depth, a person can look into it and feel as if he is there."

He uses a 6-by-7 format camera to assist in capturing the detail he feels is essential to depth and space. And he uses light the same as a painter would use a brush.

"By using the natural light, I feel that I can create a photograph that is

believable," he said. "I do not believe in manipulating a photograph with excessive filtration or unnatural exposures."

Young adds that he has "been pursuing the elusive photograph for five years."

His photographic education has come through expeditions to Ecuador, South America; Baffin Island, North West Territories; Brooks Range in Arctic Alaska; and Peru, South America.

Young's photographs will be on display in Spectrum Gallery with pottery created by Barbara Gibson, glass works done by Charles Hudson, and paintings by nine Michigan artists.

Spectrum Gallery is located inside Chatham Mall, 25820 Middlebelt.

SO FAR this spring, Ray has assisted ships from Turkey, Liberia, Panama, Greece and England.

"We like the Japanese-built ships the best, and we like the Japanese and Taiwanese crews," Ray says of the collected views of his fellow pilots — members of the Lakes Pilots Association, Inc.

"The Orientals are all business and great sailors," he reports.

Predictably, the best food is on the French ships, Ray verifies. "It's just as good as any restaurant you'd find in

Family Fun planned at Wood Creek School

A Family Fun Fest will be held at Wood Creek Elementary School Monday, May 21, from 6-8:30 p.m., planned by the school's PTO social chairman, Diane Ekizian.

Decor for the evening is turn-of-the-century, with hosts dressed in red vests


and straw hats serving hot dogs, and guests invited to make their own ice cream sundaes.

Music will be furnished by the Franklin Community Band.

Parents are asked to call the school office at 851-5575, for reservations.

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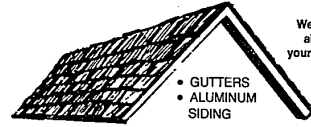
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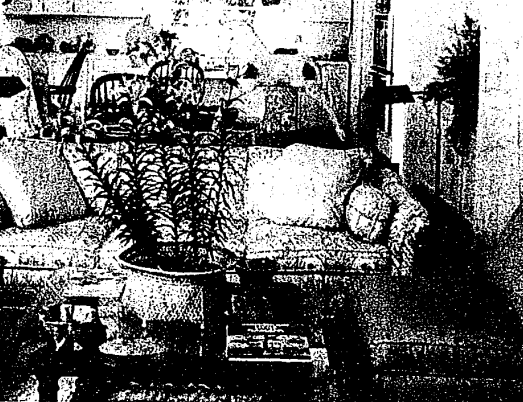
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