

The Chessie Safety Express will be making Michigan runs for the next two weeks.

## Railroad steam trips run for 2 weeks

Three steam-powered passenger excursion train trips will leave Detroit during the next two weeks as part of an unusual program designed to raise the safety consciousness of the motoring public. Three more are scheduled from Grand Rapids.

The excursions are part of a system-wide project of the Chessie System Railroads, a unit of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway. They are meant to provide travel entertainment while educating the traveling public.

There were 626 grade-crossing accidents, including 30 fatalities, 281 injuries and several million dollars in damage along the Chessie system in 1980, according to William F. Howes Jr., Chessie's vice president for casualty prevention.

"We want to make this problem as visible as possible, and we believe a colorful steam excursion train is the best way to get the public's attention," Howes said.

"Whenever people in cars, trucks or other motor vehicles collide with a train at a grade crossing, they almost always come out a poor second."

The one-day Detroit tours, part of 35 tours system-wide, travel to Clio on May 30, Grand Ledge on May 31 and Grand Rapids on June 6. One-day tours will also leave Grand Rapids for St. Joseph, Plymouth and Chicago on June 7, 13 and 14, respectively.

Detroit trips to Clio and Grand Ledge are return trips and cost \$33 for adults, \$25 for children under 12. Premium service for accommodations in the Dome Car, Parlor Car or Observation Lounge costs \$60.

The Detroit trip to Grand Rapids is a one-way trip; adults \$20, children \$15.



premium service \$40. Charter bus return is available for an additional \$15.

The Chessie Safety Express is no ordinary train trip. It includes a rail car housing "Operation Lifesaver" displays, as well as a glass-enclosed dome-lounge car originally built for luxury western trains and an open-air sightseeing car as well as food service, gift shop and tape recording cars.

A photo run-by of photogenic sites will be a feature of all trips.

The Chessie Safety Express, which is being run for the second year, is operating out of major cities in the 13 states where Chessie System Railroads operate. The schedule began April 25 and will run through July 12 in the western section of the Chessie lines.

Tours will operate Sept. 12 through Nov. 1 on the eastern section of the line. On Oct. 16, the Express will participate in celebrations of the 200th anniversary of both the Battle of Yorktown and the War of Independence.

For further information on the Chessie Safety Express, contact Michigan State Trust for Railway Preservation, Box 815, East Lansing 48823, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope, or buy tickets from Beltners Jewelry, 504 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, or from Joe's Hobby Center, 7845 Wyoming, Dearborn.

## Black Madonna shrouded in old mystery and legend

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riings, gold cups, antique jewelry of all kinds, and a great leaning clutter of crutches. People come to the Black Madonna, as they go to the Lady of Lourdes for miracle cures.

Liquid oil lamps hang above the rapt heads as the faithful say the rosary. The old women in their babushkas kneel in the doorways and adjacent halls, up the stairwells and out the doorways of the Chapel. They often have tears on their cheeks, perhaps in memory of other days.

During the annual pilgrimage, the young people come to Jasna Gora, but on ordinary days like this, it is mostly the old with their lined faces.

There are other memories in this sudden reliving of my trip to Czestochowa: a wedding party coming

down the aisle; a cheerful white-robed monk standing on a chair on the second floor to explain the treasures of Jasna Gora to a group; a workman shoveling a huge cart of potatoes into a cellar; and the tourist who suggests that the monks all making vodka with all those potatoes.

But mostly I remember the old women, gathered in the Chapel of the Black Madonna and spread across the great square in front of the church. On the square, they moved among stalls selling religious pictures, rosaries, postcards, statues, mementos and votive candles.

The moment is gone, and I am once again leaning against my sink listening to the daily news. As I said, the travel experience lasts long after the journey is over.

## "...I try to be a newsperson much of the time, and a human being all of the time."

FRANZ



Ben Frazier joined WDIV in June, 1980. He is currently co-anchor of the 5:30 and 11:00 p.m. News. A native of Jacksonville, Florida, Ben brings 10 years of broadcast journalism experience to News 4. He has held news anchor positions in Jacksonville, Atlanta, and Washington, D.C., and has also worked for the Associated Press and the Mutual Black Network. In 1970, he received an Associated Press Award for Outstanding News Coverage. In 1980, the NAACP presented him an award for unbiased news reporting.

How do you view the responsibilities of a newscaster?

FRAZIER: I think the greatest responsibility of a journalist is to tell the truth. I want people to feel they can trust me. The responsibility of a journalist is awesome, and credibility is a very important factor to me.

What word might describe your style of journalism, or how you perceive it?

FRAZIER: My style is to attempt to tell the truth as I see it. I can't do much more as an individual. I'm human like everyone else, and I think in too many instances people put newscasters on a pedestal. We are people, too.

Is there an area of news reporting in which you have a special interest?

FRAZIER: I have a sincere interest in investigative reporting. But as to my favorite subject matter, I would have to say it is children. Children are our future, the sum total of our yesterday, our tomorrow, our victories, our defeats. We need to do something for them, to help prepare them for the awesome task ahead. So maybe the next generation will be a little luckier and have some of their problems solved.

I know you've been involved to some extent with adoptive children's agencies here in town. How have you been working with them?

FRAZIER: I have a professional and personal commitment to children in need of permanent families in Detroit. I got into it professionally, but once I began to find out the details behind the stories, my heart went out to these children.



It must really be a strange feeling not to have a permanent home, to all of a sudden realize you don't know where you belong. I'm glad I was able to do the report on adoptive agencies. If it didn't do anything else, it let a lot of people know we cannot forget these children. I had the good fortune of growing up with both my parents in the house. Because of my love for them and my relationship with them, I can appreciate how it must feel to grow up not having that kind of relationship.

Back to your profession. I've been told you are very conscious about rehearsing.

FRAZIER: I deliver my best newscast when I'm most confident with the job before me. It's important for me to display this sense of confidence to the people watching the news. So I might do a bit more rehearsing than other newscasters. It's also important for viewers to feel a sense of authority from the person telling them what is going on. Authority and credibility are very high factors on the list.

What feelings do you have about Detroit?

FRAZIER: My wife is expecting a baby in September. It will be our second child, and that child will be born in Detroit. So there lies my commitment to Detroit. Detroit is my town, now. It's a city faced with tremendous financial problems. But despite all of them, there is still a certain resiliency, a refusal to give up. That is what I like most about Detroit. Detroit has heart.

Are you involved with any community or public service interests?

FRAZIER: I am a member of the advisory board of the Harbor Lighthouse, and I work with several other organizations here in Detroit. I also go out on speaking engagements, but I don't confine myself entirely to speaking. I enjoy relating to people in lots of ways. I really do. I sincerely love people. Drives my wife crazy sometimes. But I love people. I love to be around them.



When you're putting together a story on a controversial matter, how do you manage to protect innocent people, yet reveal all the truths?

FRAZIER: My job is to tell the truth. The chips have to fall where they may. Like I said before, I want people to trust me and to know that if I say something, it is correct.

Ben, do you prefer the actual on-air part of your job, or is it more interesting behind the scenes, gathering information?

FRAZIER: Both are important to the total picture. I have my eye on both, just as others do, but I am not hung up by the line. I think in so many instances for TV news reporters and television anchor people in particular, it's very easy to take yourself too seriously. I try to guard against that. It's something you have to back away from.



What criteria do you use in selecting a story?

FRAZIER: I don't adhere to the theory that all news is supposed to be bad. I prefer to look for a positive story. I'm not talking about overlooking reality, but reality is also positive sometimes. It's not always negative.

Are there other newscasters you look up to?

FRAZIER: Oh, certainly. Walter Cronkite I suppose has always been my favorite newscaster. Despite his authoritative approach, Walter is warm and human. That human element is what I like most about him, and that's been something I've attempted to include within my own style. It's something I never want to lose sight of: that I try to be a newscaster much of the time, and a human being all of the time.

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