



Pat Bordman

Fun from '1 old cat' to Softball City



Just one old cat. That's all it took to establish one of the greatest sporting diversions for people of all ages. And children led the way.

In Colonial Boston, children played a game called one old cat. Bats, balls and one base were used. Though certainly not as complicated as modern day softball, it was fun and slowly evolved into a game that could be played by all ages.

Today, softball is more than just choosing up sides in a sandlot game. It is taught in schools, organized into leagues and is a pastime for thousands of adults and children.

Softball has given generations a sense of continuity, a shared interest that transcends age and experience. Watching softball is a way of building social relations across age barriers.

But perhaps the greatest advantage softball offers is the example of an activity begun in childhood that can grow and continue through adulthood.

This diversion, played originally for fun, can be expanded and still enjoyed as an adult. The skills learned in softball as a youngster do not have to be developed in preparation for a career, but can remain a hobby forever.

A place to share the excitement of slowpitch softball is at Softball City. Competitive league play on 12 lighted diamonds can be found there.

BLEACHERS ALONG first and third base lines are so close to the action you

can see the plays better than the umpires. Or bring a picnic dinner and sit within yards of homeplate while you eat.

Softball City is clean and orderly. But if the game you selected is not spirited enough, simply move to another as they are played simultaneously. Once at the ballpark, you may watch any and as many games as you wish.

Softball is played in only seven innings and the games move fast. Most last only one hour and 15 minutes.

Softball City, at the State Fair Grounds, hosts both men's and women's leagues. Games are played daily starting at 6 p.m. and from 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Saturday and 9:15 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Sunday. Batting cages are available for practice against a slowpitch machine.

Admission is \$1 per adult and children under 14 are free. Phone 368-1850 for further information.

Patricia Bordman, a free-lance writer and photographer, has a master's degree in Early Childhood Education. She has taught elementary school and conducted workshops and lectures. Mrs. Bordman welcomes suggestions and comments. Please write her c/o the Observer & Eccentric Newspaper, 36251 Schoelcraft Rd., Livonia 48150.

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You can enjoy a picnic dinner at Softball City, the State Fair Grounds, where admission is \$1 for adults, children under 14 free.

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consumer mailbox

Tofu: the egg(less) salad

What is the difference between regular and quick-cooking oatmeal? Is regular better for you?

Helen B. Troy

Regular rolled oats are made by simply rolling the oat grain flat. To make quick-cooking oats, the kernel is cut into several pieces and then rolled. Food values are about equal.

How can I make "eggless" egg salad? I know its made with tofu but I can't figure out how to make it taste like eggs.

Byron M. Troy

Tofu, a curd made from soybeans, has the amazing ability to adopt flavors. It can be used as almost any food course from the spiciest appetizer to the sweetest cream pie filling. Here is a simple recipe for "eggless" egg salad made with Tofu.

TOFU "Egg" SALAD

- 1 one-pound container of tofu.
- 1 stalk celery, chopped
- 2 tsp onion, minced
- 1 tsp prepared mustard
- 1/4 tsp turmeric for color, optional
- 1 tsp mayonnaise
- salt and pepper to taste

Combine and chill well before serving. Makes six sandwiches or serve with crackers as an appetizer.

Last year I picked up a pamphlet at one of your conferences that listed area farms and farmers markets. Do you have one for 1981?

Mrs. C. H. Livonia

To receive a free copy of "Michigan Country Carousel, a Guide to Pick-Your-Own Farms and Roadside Markets," write to: Michigan Department of Agriculture, Lansing, 48909.

Consumer Mailbox answers your questions. Address letters to Grace R. Glusking, Concern, Inc., Detroit, One Northfield Plaza, Troy 48068.

Division to honor Gold Star mother

The 17th Airborne Division Association is seeking a Detroit area mother who lost a son in combat with the division during World War II.

The division, which is planning a reunion Aug. 8-9 at the Dearborn Hyatt Regency, wants to present an award to the Gold Star mother who answers the description.

Anyone who knows of such a mother may call Jim Ethernott of the Detroit area 82nd Airborne Division Association, 293-8576.

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