

Henry Fonda stars as Norman Thayer Jr., spending the season at the family's summer place, in "On Golden Pond."



the movies

Louise Snider

## Inspiration flows through the film 'On Golden Pond'

Before I saw "On Golden Pond" (PG), I already had some notion of what it would be about, or so I thought: Parents growing older, the father thinking about death, and still, after 50-some years, unable to establish a close relationship with his daughter. Probably a sentimental and depressing movie, I figured.

Was I wrong? Sentimental? Only a bit. Depressing? Quite the opposite. This movie sparkles with brisk, bright dialogue, refreshing humor, fascinating characters, and such positive, life-affirming values, you want to go back and see it again because it is so inspiring.

"On Golden Pond" is about an older couple, Norman Thayer and his wife Ethel, but what a pair they are — Henry Fonda and Katharine Hepburn at their very best. That means head and shoulders above almost all other performers at their best.

NORMAN DOES think a lot about dying, especially since he is about to celebrate his 80th birthday and he has "palpitations," as Ethel calls them.

Norman, however, isn't the sort of person to invite sympathy. He's a cantankerous type who puts off everyone with his arsenal of very rude, albeit very funny, remarks. His idea of mellowing is to tone down his rudeness to brusqueness.

Little wonder that his daughter Chelsea (Jane Fonda), as well as his wife, agree that "Norman's an old poop." Chelsea has come to her parents' summer cottage with her new boyfriend and his 12-year-old son Billy in tow. They plan to celebrate Norman's birthday, then leave the boy with Norman and Ethel while they travel to Europe.

Instant hostility best describes how Norman and Billy react toward each other. Eventually, they become friends, somewhat to Chelsea's surprise. The friendship opens up old wounds, since it is the kind of relationship Chelsea sought with her father and never achieved.

This interlude with Billy is the weakest part of the movie because it appears so contrived. Even so, the quality of the acting and the winsome pairing of old and young create enough credits to overcome the deficits of the situation.

DOUG McKEON is the cocky adolescent, Dabney Coleman (the same actor who plays the sextet boss in "Nine to Five") is the lover, and Jane is the middle-aged daughter who, inside, is still a little girl seeking her father's approval.

They are all excellent, but their roles simply aren't as dimensional as those of Henry Fonda and Hepburn. Although the real-life, father-daughter relationship of the Fondas adds a unique measure of interest to the movie relationship, it's not that important to the structure of the drama.

The crux of this film lies in the revelation of Norman's feelings and his efforts to cope with them. His crusty exterior functions as a protective covering that hides his frustration and anger at the infirmities he suffers and the fear he sometimes feels.

By his side, indulging him, cajoling him, loving him and scolding him is his wife. This is one of Hepburn's most dynamic, challenging performances. She and Fonda make a remarkable movie couple. They complement and augment each other's acting through a flawless interaction of personalities.

Add to this the deft script, which Ernest Thompson developed from his own play, the adroit direction of Mark Rydell and the shimmering photography of Billy Williams and the result is a movie to be seen, enjoyed and treasured.



Fonda's own daughter Jane portrays his daughter Chelsea in the film, and Kathryn Hepburn is the wife and mother, Ethel Thayer.

# DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE ON THE TOWN

**Wednesday Is Always Pasta Nite**  
Spaghetti or Rigatoni  
**\$1.99**  
All You Can Eat  
**Mama Mia**  
20210 W. 8 Mile Rd.  
1 Block W. of Evergreen  
355-7400 Mon.-Sat.  
4 pm to 2 pm

**Dine Out Tonight**

**A plan for all seasons.**

**The Payroll Savings Plan** is one of the easiest, safest ways to get started on the saving habit. Even if saving has always seemed too difficult in past seasons, a little is automatically taken out of each paycheck toward the purchase of U.S. Savings Bonds. You'll never miss it, so you'll never spend it. If just keeps growing for some coming spring, or maybe a warm vacation during next winter. It's a plan for all seasons. For all Americans.

**Take stock in America.**

When you get part of your savings into U.S. Savings Bonds, you're helping to build a brighter future for our country and for ourselves.

**Oh, my Darlin' Oh, my Darlin'**

**Jacques Seafood Celebrates Valentine's Day**  
Friday & Saturday Eve  
Roses for your Sweetheart  
Special dinners for the two of you

Major credit cards accepted

642-1373  
30100 Telegraph N. of 12 Mile

**BLANK TAPE SALE**  
M.R.S. T-120 Blank tapes  
**\$12.80 each**  
(\$11.90 ea. for 10 or more!)

Thru February  
4153 Orchard Lk Rd  
(at Pontiac Trail)  
ORCHARD LAKE  
Open 7 Days a Week  
CALL: 855-4450

**Valentine's Weekend**

Share a special Valentine dinner at Wicker Works. We'll be featuring all your favorites from our dinner menu such as Prime Rib, Shrimp Tempura, Chateaubriand and more, plus our 25-foot Wicker Works Salad Bar, Wines and cocktails are available, of course. Reservations are advised, so call 879-2100 and plan to share Saturday, Feb. 13 or Sunday, Feb. 14 with your Valentine. And we'll provide the complimentary Valentine dessert for each couple purchasing dinner!

P.S. Valentine Weekend would be a great time to try our Honeymooning weekend package (and it's not just for Honeymooners!) Call 879-2100 for details and reservations.

**NORTHFIELD HILTON**  
5500 Crooks Rd. at I-75  
Troy, Michigan 48098  
(313) 879-2100

**Monday Nights Joins Tuesday Nights**

**INFLATION FIGHTERS** at the **Shalea Inn**

**\$7.95 per person**  
Featuring: Petit Frog Legs (All you can eat) served with Cheese Crook and Crackers, Soup, Salad, French Fries, Roll and Butter

**TWO LOCATIONS**  
3315 AUBURN ROAD GRAND BLANC  
Between Adams & Ophye Rd. Just off I-75 exit  
852-3410 1-695-1650  
OPEN FOR LUNCH AT 11 a.m. MON. THRU FRI.

**Kingsley Inn**

Rest Assured...

A thoughtful way to welcome visitors or clients, is a reservation at the Kingsley Inn. We are near all business, sports and educational centers in the tri-county area. Woodward and Long Lake Rd. Bloomfield Hills

Woodward Avenue and Long Lake Road  
Bloomfield Hills  
644-1400

**MERRICK'S RESTAURANT**

**50% OFF**

We invite you to enjoy a 50% discount on One Entree when a second Entree of equal or greater value is purchased.

Coupon Valid Tues.-Saturday Evenings Only 5:30 pm-9:30 pm Located at American Center in Southfield

for easy to follow directions and Reservations CALL US AT 353-8144

- Not valid for parties over 10 or in conjunction with other coupons or offers.
- If 3 or more dine, discount applies to least expensive meal.
- Salad Bar Only is considered an Entree.
- Expires 2/27/82
- Present this Coupon
- One coupon per couple
- One check per Table
- This coupon supersedes all other newspaper offers or coupons prior to 4/1/81.

**THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW AT HICKORY'S**  
Chick 'n rib

**ALL YOU CAN EAT Famous Bar B Q CHICKEN \$3.95**

1/2 price for children including a turn at the SALAD BAR after 3 and all day Sun.

**RIBS!**

- Smoked & Bar B Qued
- New Bar B Qued n' Basted with our Special Sauce

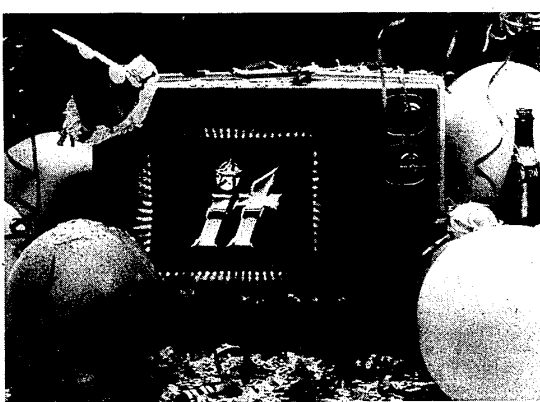
1/2 slab \$6.95 full slab \$8.95 with all the fixin's

**STUFFED PIZZ-A-LOAF**  
gourmet pizza of pulled pork dough, filled with sauce, onions, peppers, olives, mushrooms, tomato & aged cheese. Also with meatballs, sausage & pepperoni.  
\$3.95 to \$8.45

**YOU take it out WE take it off 10% OFF**  
All Carry Out Orders

**LOOK LOOK LOOK**  
We Deliver FREE within 3 miles For Fast Hot Delivery, Phone

**HICKORY'S**  
29161 Northwestern Corner of 12 Mile 352-2150



## CELEBRATE OUR FIRST YEAR WITH 3 MONTHS OF FREE MOVIES!

Enjoy over 200 movies free with our money-saving offer! That's three months during the first year of free movies and entertainment specials! Subscribe to "it" right now during our first anniversary special offer and you'll get up to 80 movies a month, longer hours on weekends and save up to \$80.70! Join our celebration — call "it" today!

NO CABLE NEEDED • CALL TOLL-FREE  
**1-800-482-1450**

In Ann Arbor, call (313) 973-7731, before 8:00 p.m.

**Subscription Television**