

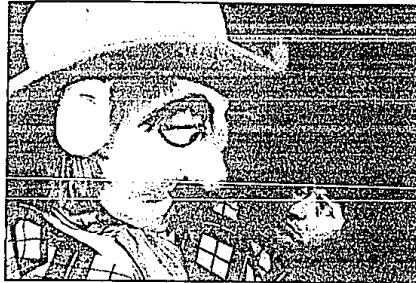
## Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



Thursday, July 13, 1989 O&amp;E

(O&amp;E)

upcoming  
things to do

"The Bremen Town Musicians," performed by the Hudson Gabond Puppets, appear on the children's concert series at the Meadow Brook Music Festival at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 22, on the campus of Oakland University near Rochester. The gates open at 10 a.m. for picnicking. For tickets, call 377-2010.



The legendary P'Jazz summer concert series presents for the first time a Sunday concert with the pop singer and guitarist Kenny Rankin making his first appearance on the P'Jazz stage at 3 p.m. Sunday on the outdoor terrace of Detroit's Hotel Pontchartrain. For ticket information, call 845-6666.

# Water way to go

## Cruising and dining are perfect combo

By Larry Jones  
special writer

**I**F YOUR idea of a fun way to go cruising down the river is to throw a few six packs in a cooler and stop off at a local deli for some hearty munchies, you won't want to read on and hear what's available.

If, on the other hand, you're looking for a fun afternoon or evening on the water and you want to sit back, relax, sip a few brews or work an '87 Kendall Jackson Chardonnay while enjoying fine cuisine, then read on.

Within the last five years, major investors and yacht brokers have discovered just how glorious and spectacular the Detroit waterways are. And it's about time.

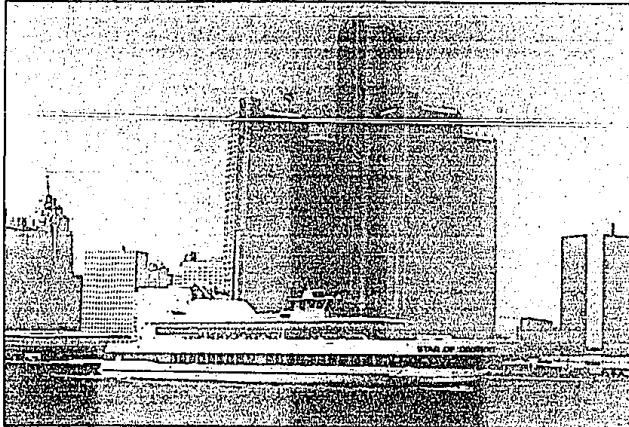
**T**HIS YEAR, AS with the past few, you can enjoy a gorgeous sail down the river and into Lake St. Clair shelling out as little as \$28 per person or as much as \$400 per hour on such notable cruise ships as the Star of Detroit, the Helene, the Star of Detroit Too or the Golden Voyager. And this price can include great food.

A few weeks back, the missus and I, along with friends thoroughly enjoyed a dinner cruise on the Star of Detroit. We were graciously seated (the foot of Atwater Street right behind Hart Plaza) by Ann Henrichsen, head PR lady for the Star Line. We were escorted to our table, set with crisp cloths and white napkins, surrounded by Frank Lloyd Wright inspired chairs, hardly noticing the gentle swaying of the docked ship. (By the time the night was over, and after being corrected numerous times, I promised to call it a "ship" and not a "boat".)

We sat precisely at 7 p.m. and after filling our glasses with an assortment of nice wines, meandered out on deck to an awesome view of the Detroit skyline as we headed up the river to Lake St. Clair.

**F**IRST OFF, FOR those who get queasy contemplating the big ride at Boblo, you can board the most popular boat, the 145-ft., 88-ton cruise ship. The twin-diesel engines hum with pride as the skillful crew maneuvers the vessel up the Canadian side of the river and you stroll the wide decks, listening to an assortment of great pre-dinner music coming live from the main upper-deck dining room.

The bow (front) of the ship is the quiet place where couples and



It's smooth sailing and fine dining on the Star of Detroit.

friends can enjoy the quiet wind-swept feeling of the river while pointing out the sights like the Scoot Fountain at Belle Isle and the colorful parks along the Canadian side of the river.

We returned to our tables where we were escorted to a cold appetizer and salad buffet. We sailed down the Star line have this ritual down pat by bringing up one table at a time so that there's seldom a wait for food. Nice touch.

The three-hour cruise gave us plenty of time to finish our appetizers and salads and still take another walk around the pristine decks. As a special request, we opted for an off-limits tour of the bridge where a starched white-shirted captain and crew control the passage through the waters and around the assorted pleasure boats and lake vessels.

**W**E RETURNED TO our seats to finish off one bottle of wine and right after ordering our second, were again escorted to the hot buffet featuring entrees of chicken breasts, fresh fillets of whitefish and carved to order roasts of beef. All this, while the five-piece band continued to play

soft, dinner renditions of old show tunes and hit Broadway numbers.

After dinner, the lights on board went down with the sunset as the music turned more danceable and the twinkling lights of the Ambassador Bridge were seen in the distance. Sound romantic? Rest assured, my next visit will be at a little table for two, tucked away in a quiet corner with just me, the lady of my dreams and a bottle of Napa Valley Brut Reserve '84.

That's probably the best part of a cruise on the Star of Detroit. There were five in our party and looking around the main dining room, we noticed tables for two, four, six and even a group of bingo workers from a local Eagles Auxiliary. This is one cruise that offers the ambience no matter if it's just for two or a party of 42.

**B**UT BEING A foodie at heart, I couldn't resist asking for a tour of the galley. If it sounds like miracles were worked above deck, the true miracle was seeing the small but totally efficient galley area where I met the head chef and he told me that everything was prepared on board in the confines of what

couldn't have been more than 300-square-foot area.

We returned to our table only to make a slow pass under the Ambassador Bridge and then it was back to the dock. This gave us just time to burn off a few dinner calories while spinning to a few top-40 hits and an occasional polka. Wonderful memories of dancing aboard the old Boblo Boat while cruising to the Island skipped through my head.

If you're looking for an evening of fun, you can't go wrong at times you have to take a cruise on the Star of Detroit before the leaves turn. And if service on the Star is any indication as to what is being offered on the other Star cruise ships, you won't want to miss an equally gratifying event on the Star of Charlevoix, Chicago, Cleveland, Louisville, Milwaukee and Toledo. The crew is young, preppy, vivacious and more than willing to make for an eventful evening.

Lunch, brunch and dinner cruises are available as are total charters. Prices start at \$22.45 for lunch and \$45.45 for dinner cruises. Child rates are available.

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