

# Travel Scene



Thursday, June 7, 1990 O&E

★ 7D

**Crossroads**  
**Iris Jones**

## Pink Cadillac is city's star

Serenity — It means nice things happen by accident. That's what happened to Lorraine and John Bergler of Rochester Hills when they got caught up in a family joke about pink Cadillacs.

Their 1959 pink Cadillac is the star, along with nationally known comic Thom Sharp, in a film called "Detroit — It's An American Classic."

The film had its world premiere last week at the Detroit Institute of Arts during the annual meeting of the Metropolitan Detroit Convention and Visitors Bureau.

All the players were there. Area tourism professionals like John Anhut of the Botsford Inn, Farmington and travel writers like Hal Butler of Southfield, production coordinator Len Theis of Milford, film editor Doreen Matthews of Birmingham and musician Joseph LoDuca of Birmingham, who wrote the original score.

John L. Bergler, partner in a Madison Heights tool and die company, has been a car buff since he was a young boy. Six years ago he bought a 1959 Ford Retractable, with a hardtop that folds into the trunk, and a 1963 Thunderbird, both red convertibles.

**THAT'S WHEN** the family joke started. "What we need is a pink Cadillac," his wife, Lorraine, said.

They were enjoying a classic car auction in Las Vegas last spring, when four pink Cadillacs came up for sale. They started bidding for a car but assumed it would be too expensive for their budget. Next thing they knew, they owned a 1959 pink Cadillac.

In the meantime, back at the Metropolitan Detroit Convention and Visitors Bureau, Kathy Ustalo, vice president of communication, wrote the script for a new promotional film about the greater Detroit area and hired Thom Sharp as the star.

"WE HAD four days to film, only two days to work with Thom Sharp, and we didn't have the vehicle we wanted to tie the film together," Ustalo said.

"One night I saw a pink Cadillac, knew it was the car we needed, but didn't know where to get one. My husband Tom, who is also a car buff, assured me that he needed a 1959 model. That model had fins like rockets and of course it was made in Detroit."

It was one week before film time when serenity again came into the picture. Kathy was at a party and heard herself say, "But where are we going to get a 1959 pink Cadillac?" "My brother's got one," a voice beside her said. The brother is John Bergler of Rochester Hills.

"A week later we were filming," Lorraine Bergler said.

They filmed with producer Allison Kuhnlein, director Ed Gorczyk, cinematographer John Prusak (who produced "Roger & Me"), and editor Matthews.

## Grill lovers go South for tangy smoked flavors

By Chef Larry Jones  
staff writer

From the spicy smoked brisket of Texas and the Carolina's succulent chopped whole hog, to the tang and bit of Kansas City and Memphis ribs, there's nothing like the simple appeal of delicious smoked barbecue.

Up here in Metro Detroit, mention barbecue and you're likely to hear responses like gas, Weber, or kettle drum. Any true barbecue nut however, knows that barbecue means beef, pork, fresh ham, chicken or turkey slow smoked over a deep pit of flavorful hardwoods.

On a recent trip to visit ex-Plymouthites, Tim and Janet Matthews and their children, who reside in Hickory, N.C., we discovered Sims Country Bar-B-Que.

Now, I've been to many barbecue joints all over this great country, but Sims in Granite Falls, N.C. will always have a spot near and dear to this barbecue-loving heart.

For \$6.95 (kids, \$3.95) you get an all-you-can-eat combination of beef, pork and chicken plus the best baked beans this side of momma's cole-slave. Add to that with some sliced packaged white bread that is used solely for soaking up the delicious juices. And lastly, for your thirst-quenching appetite, homemade iced tea served. That's Sims.

**NO LIQUOR**, no potatoes, no relish tray. These folks just do barbecue, plain and simple.

Sims' Country Bar-B-Que does beef and pork in a deep covered pit and allows the eater the option to squirt on lip-tingling barbecue sauce from one of those old-time ketchup squirt bottles. You've gotta taste it to believe it.

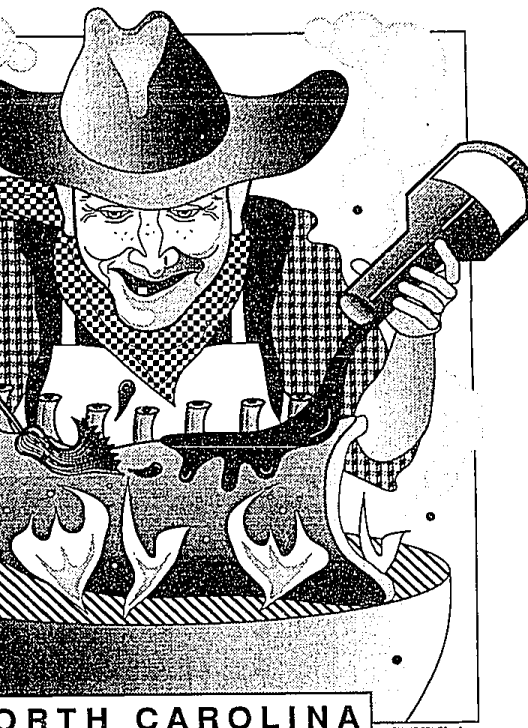
Not only does Sims do a great barbecue, you have got to check out the live bluegrass music, square dancing and clogging that accompanies their terrific dinners.

This is a full-fledged blue-grass band complete with fiddler, base guitar, piano and lead guitar. After about 15 minutes of warming up the audience, the cloggers can be seen strapping on their half inch clogged shoes and before long, everyone is up and working off the plentiful buffet. They even do special songs for the kids. Since no alcoholic

is ever served (and Shirley Sims, owner, says it never will be) every-one has a hoot-roarin' time. Kids from one to 101 enjoy this place.

If you get there early (dinner starts at 5 p.m.), better bring along the old fishin' pole because on my last visit, I saw a catfish that was three foot long, swimming in the pond behind the big barn.

The Keith Sims family has owned and operated the Sims Country Bar-B-Que going on 11 years. Shirley Sims walks the wooden-floored country barn-dining room with scrap book in hand asking out-of-towners to "sign-in." Keith Sims himself, clichey-clicks through the same



**NORTH CAROLINA  
B.B.Q.**

dining-room making sure "y'all get your fill" while daughter, Susan Baumgardner, manages the barbecue pits and kitchen staff.

**WARNING** — This is about as country as you can get. If you need cloth-covered tables and real china, don't be too surprised when you check out the heavy paper plates and family-style dining tables. On cool fall, winter and spring nights, a huge fieldstone fireplace warms the hearts and souls of all who dine there.

If you happen to be traveling to the North Carolina coast somewhere near Myrtle Beach and Wilmington,

there's a Sims Country Bar-B-Que in Shalotte, N.C., managed by younger son, Mike Sims. Just like Mom and Dad's original, barbecue and bluegrass abound.

The original Sims is located on Route 1, Box 235 in Granite Falls, N.C., 28830. Unless you have a map or a local who knows their way, just stop and ask anyone in town. Shirley Sims says they'll send a map if you write.

So, if you're searching for an offbeat place with wonderful food, and an atmosphere that just can't be beat, check out Sims Country Bar-B-Que. You won't be disappointed. Tell 'em Chef Larry from Detroit sent ya!

## A Bluegrass dream for the weekend wanderer

By John Castle  
special writer

The Mason-Dixon Line doesn't count. The South really begins where grits come with your eggs and the waitress draws "Y" all come back."

Dixie is only 275 miles away. You enter it at the Ohio River.

The South begins in Kentucky. The Bluegrass State is no stranger to us. We've visited her for years and have grown to know her well. We've floated her rivers, climbed her hills, explored her caves, and hiked over her emerald grass.

When suburban life becomes dull, we pack up and head south. It's Lexington at Easter, Lake Cumberland in summer, Paducah in autumn, and Cumberland Falls for Christmas.

Kentucky embraces all seasons. She always offers a smorgasbord of things to do. But we've found it's better to nibble them a few days at a time rather than trying to gobble them up in one long visit.

Close and compact, Kentucky is ideal for the weekend wanderer.

**THIS SPRING** we left our Birmingham home at 8 a.m. on a Friday. We breakfasted off I-75 two exits below Toledo and crossed into Kentucky before noon. At 12:30 p.m. we rolled into the Winners Circle Motel in Georgetown.

We always spend our first night there. The family-owned motel is clean, comfortable and economical (\$27 for a double). Best of all, it tolerates the small poodle who travels with us.

Georgetown provides a good base of operations. It's within five miles of the famous Horse Park, even closer to the new Toyota Plant. Bustling Lexington is only 10 miles down the road. Sleepy Frankfort, the capital, lies 17 miles to the west.

You can visit all four in a couple of hours. And that's what we did that first afternoon. We made the circuit and got back in time for a nap before dinner.



JOHN CASTLE

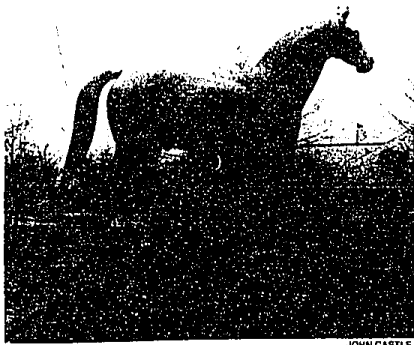
Many of the Kentucky state resort parks offer colorful views of the rustic area. Carter Caves Resort Park is filled with caverns and gives visitors tours through many of the underground tunnels. Above is the National Bridge State Resort Park located in the Daniel Boone National Forest. The park is only one-hour drive east of Lexington.

Our Golden Corral supper was super: sirloin tips with sauteed green peppers, and fried catfish with hush puppies.

After eating, we walked down to the Georgetown Flea Market. The market is a weekend institution. Hill folk hawk their wares from rusty vans and pickups. They sell everything from hand-bewn axe handles to rare whiskey bottles. I bought an ancient leather tool, my wife a homemade chess set.

That night we made plans to visit Natural Bridge State Resort Park the next day. Each time we go to Kentucky we target a new area. Eventually, we plan to see all of her hidden wooders a weekend at a time.

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JOHN CASTLE

The grave of the legendary race horse Man O' War attracts visitors near the entrance to the Kentucky Horse Park. The park stretches 1,000 acres long and houses some of the rarest and most beautiful horses in the world.