

## Food, fishing, fun — Wellston offers plenty

By Larry Janes  
staff writer

If you're looking for a great weekend trip, check out the hunting, fishing, snowmobiling and accommodations halfway between Cadillac and Manistee in a sleepy little village called Wellston.

Located just a half mile south of M-55 (the main drag between Cadillac and Manistee), you'll find that fishing and hunting abound. And with it, some of the best bargains for accommodations and great food to boot!

Wellston is in the heart of the great Manistee National Forest. It is here that one-tank travelers can fish to their heart's content in places like the Manistee River, Tippy Darn, and the Blacksmith Bayou for such great prices as salmon, trout, walleye, steelhead and large mouth bass. The area has more tackle joints than gas stations.

There are plenty of campsites scattered throughout the forest, many of which are open year-round. But for a unique experience that will take you back in time, check out the food and accommodations at the legendary Wellston Inn. Founded in the late 1800s, this quaint little inn offers motel rooms, cabins, lodge rooms and a dormitory for groups of eight or more.

Rates begin at an unheard of \$20 per night per person for a lodge room, wrapped in knotty pine, right above the main dining room. For an additional \$10, a room with a private bath is available.

You won't want to stay in the room too much because Mother Nature has planned some extraordinary sights for you to behold. Miles of hiking trails, snowmobile trails and winding rivers beckon even the wim-

piest of travelers with their pristine beauty.

If all that nature isn't enough to behold, Wellston and nearby Dublin offers a trek back into time with weekend flea markets, tackle and hunting shops, professional guide service for fishing trips, fly fishing clinics and a trip to the Dublin Spartan store being a must on anyone's list.

This one-of-a-kind old general store is a full-service supermarket but what makes it special is the attached hardware store that still features nails by the pound, fishing and hunting gear and everything else one might expect to find in the only hardware store within 25 miles.

But the lure for this weekend fisherman was stocking up on what I have discovered to be the best jerky this side of Arkansas. It's made everyday with lean strips of flank. A fishing buddy suggested I check it out.

Not being a big fan of tough chewable rawhide, I entered the market somewhat skeptical. My one-pound purchase totalled \$10 on the button and I left thinking that at \$10 per pound, this better be the best dang jerky on Earth. It is. Trust me on this one, if you're in the area, it's worth the stop.

But fishing, hunting, nature and jerky aren't all that's done well in Wellston. The Wellston Inn also has one of the most quaint dining rooms, bawling hearty breakfasts, with real — not dehydrated hash browns — biscuits and gravy, hickory smoked bacon and a bottomless coffee cup that doesn't cost another quarter for refills.

For more information, contact the Wellston Inn at 616-848-4163 or if you happen to be in the Cadillac or Manistee area, just follow M-55 to the Wellston intersection and head south.



ROBERT S. ARNOLD

Ladies make pies the old-fashioned way with fresh ingredients and wood stoves at Old Sturbridge Village.

## Village adds old spice to holiday

Continued from Page 8

1830. The tavern is brown clapboard with white trim. Enter to the dim light of candles and wander among the period furniture with a cup of mulled cider in your hand.

A series of tables is set according to the size of your party, although singles are asked to join other tables. The portions are substantial and come in waves of food.

The menu starts with apple

cider, relishes, oyster bisque, "winter salad with a most delicious sauce" and Indian cornucopia. The turkey follows, with gilet gravy, country stuffing, Cape Cod cranberries, whipped potatoes, Brussels sprouts, buttered carrots and turnips.

And then the desserts start. Harvest pumpkin pie, maple walnut cake, traditional mince pie with cheddar cheese, plum pudding with brandied sauce, warm deep dish

apple pie, also with cheddar cheese, dried fruits and nuts...

For dinner reservations, send a three dollar deposit to Marketing Dept., Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, Mass., 01568 or telephone (508) 347-3382. Book as far ahead as you can for Thanksgiving dinner.

A visit to Old Sturbridge Village is a celebration of the past. It is also an appreciation of the present.

As we passed the graves of so many women in the old pioneer cemetery, I remembered that childbirth was the first cause of death for women in those days, and the second cause of death was burns.

Their long skirts caught fire as they leaned over the open fireplace to cook their food. I am grateful for the double ovens that will cook my Thanksgiving turkey, even if it goes out every time the electricity goes off!

## Outlook good for Christmas Tree fest

As national trends point to interest in a quieter, simpler and wholesome family holiday season, the Michigan Christmas Tree Festival is expected to grow in popularity this year. The Michigan Christmas Tree Festival claims to evoke memories of the sights and sounds of small town Christmas past, and invites visitors to linger, rather than "race" through

the approaching holiday season.

While big cities lure shoppers and visitors with large inventories and flashing lights, the Christmas Tree Festival offers homemade crafts and goodies, opportunities to plant and cut your own tree, and watch your Christmas wreath be made.

The Michigan Christmas Tree Festival also celebrates the use of the

natural Christmas Tree, Ottawa County, including Holland, Grand Haven, and Zeeland has been home to the plantation Christmas Tree industry since the early 1930s. Today, these growers provide the highest quality Christmas trees in the Midwest, as well as the opportunity for people to select and cut their own. Other Christmas Tree Festival

events include traditional church bazaars, parades, tree-lightings, home tours, carol sings, and a stroll down Christmas Card Lane.

The participating communities invite visitors to join in the small town holiday traditions which give the Michigan Christmas Tree Festival a spirit "miles away from the big city."

## travel

### Meet the authors

Meet some of Michigan's foremost travel writers on Friday, November 30 at the Barnes & Noble bookstore, Hampton Village Center, 2921 South Rochester Road in Rochester Hills. From 7 to 8:30 p.m. you can meet:

• Susan and Steve Pyle, authors of Michigan's Town & Country Inns.

• Gary Bariknecht, author of Ultimate Michigan Adventures.

• Martin Kohn, author of Family Fare.

• Jim Dufresne, author of Michigan's Best Outdoor Adventures with Children and Michigan Off the Beaten Path.

• George Cantor, author of Great Lakes Guide Book and Where the Old Roads Go.

Join our escorted group on the all new "CRYSTAL HARMONY" January 27, 1991 San Juan to Aicapulco (Trans Canal) Special Group Reductions

travel  
max  
851-7760

Call now—a  
needy child  
is waiting.

Please call this toll-free number to learn how you can help a needy child escape hunger and poverty. But do it today—a child is waiting, a child is hoping.  
1-800-776-6767  
(Toll Free)

• Mary Wermuth, author of Michigan's Centennial Family Farm Heritage.

• Ted Paul, author of The Christmas Collie, and his dog Toby from 7 to 9 p.m.

30

### Show hours added

The Toledo Museum of Art has extended evening hours for this last weekend of its major exhibition, Im-

pressionism: Selections from Five American Museums. The critically acclaimed exhibition, partly funded by Ford Motor Co., features the finest works from the Impressionist and Post-Impressionist collections of five American museums.

Extended hours are Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday and the final Sunday, November 25, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

To order tickets, call (419) 243-7000 or visit the ground floor lobby ticket desk. For further information, contact Barbara H. Van Vleet, Public Information Officer, or Roger M.

Berkowitz, Deputy Director and Consortium Coordinator of the Impressionism exhibition. (419) 255-8900.



Read. Then Recycle.

## Shop 'Til You Drop

Holiday Shopping Spree  
in New York City

November 27-28  
December 4, 5, 11, 12, 13

Includes:  
• Round trip Jet Service to New York  
• Transfers to the World Famous Macy's Department Store  
• Complimentary gift at Macy's Department Store

\$129<sup>90</sup>

## TRAVELWORKS

29201 Telegraph • Southfield, MI 48034  
827-9920 • 1-800-729-9820 • FAX (313) 555-1701

1980 Anniversary Specials! 1990



Celebrating our 10th year

in corporate and leisure travel in the Rochester area.

Anniversary Prize drawings

for our valued and loyal customers!

Come join the fun...

or just stop by and daydream of

deep blue water, sunshine, and soft sandy beaches!

Each month a winner from that month's customers will be drawn

(\$200 minimum purchase required)

Oct., Dec., Feb. (91) - 4 free tickets to 1991 U.S. Senior Open at Oakland Hills Country Club, Birmingham, MI

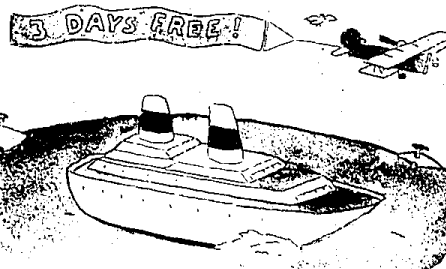
Nov., Jan., Mar., (91) - 1 free roundtrip American Airlines ticket to anywhere in 48 states. (Some restrictions apply)

Free Sunvisors with any purchase over \$100 in leisure travel

(while supplies last)

375-1070

Springhill Plaza • 2035 Walton at Adams • Rochester Hills, MI



## High Seas. Low Fares.

Only By Sea, Inc., together with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines\*, offers you 10 days for the price of 7. That's 10 days of cruising the sunny Antilles aboard the regal Nordic Prince. Save \$1190 per couple. Fares begin at \$1530. Call Only By Sea, Inc. at 645-9900 and prepare to sail away.



\*Ships of Norwegian and Liberian Registry