



Walking in the front door at Bonny Mill Inn in Chesaning is like stepping into a Victorian greeting card. The owners re-

built the Chesaning Farmers Cooperative Elevator, which was built in 1920.

## Victorian view: Couple rebuilds old mill into 'bonny' inn

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person it's named for on the inside of the door, with a caption that tells a little bit about the person.

Bonny Mill has hosted at least one famous guest — Phyllis Diller, who was the featured performer at Chesaning's Showboat last year. "At first she didn't want to stay here; her secretary called several times to ask questions about the rooms, but they loved it here," said Howard. "Bobby Vinton (Showboat's featured performer in July) will be staying here this year."

The inn is, in some ways, more like a small hotel than a bed and breakfast, probably because of its size (24 rooms, with more in the works). What makes it like a bed and breakfast, however, is the friendliness of the staff, especially the Ebenbohses themselves.

Actually, most of the staff are Ebenbohses — this is a real family operation. Five of the Ebenbohses' six children work at either the inn or Heritage House Restaurant.

Rooms cost between \$65 and \$125. Call (517) 845-7788 for reservations.

## Westland girl to dance on Chesaning Showboat

Six-year-old Jessica Berner of Westland will be one of the 36 amateur acts performing aboard the Chesaning Showboat July 15 through 20 in Chesaning. Jessica, who does jazz tap dancing, will perform on Saturday night July 20.

These acts are on stage before the main show each evening. The showboat had to choose from 285 performers in 162 acts that auditioned for the week's shows. They

chose six acts a night, with one alternate a night.

Singer Bobby Vinton leads the lineup of professional performers on the Showboat, sharing the spotlight with Norm Crosby, who serves as co-host on the Jerry Lewis Labor Day telethon.

Tickets for dockside seats range from \$8 to \$14 and can be reserved by calling (517) 845-3056.

An overnight stay at Bonny Mill includes a full breakfast. We were offered fresh fruit and several different kinds of juice, an egg and bacon casserole, a variety of cold cereals and Bonnie's freshly baked pastries — muffins, coffee cakes and croissants.

While you're staying at the inn,

you might want to have lunch or dinner at the Heritage House Restaurant. All the care that has been taken to create a warm atmosphere at Bonny Mill Inn is also in evidence at the Ebenbohses' first project, which opened in 1990.

The decor in the restaurant is also Victorian, with the same kinds of ro-

manic touches as the inn.

Heritage House is in an old home; that's why people like it, according to Bonnie. "One of the reasons the restaurant has been a success is because of the setting. People love to get into the old homes. Others can duplicate our food, but they can't duplicate the setting." I, for one, doubt many can come anywhere near duplicating the food.

Heritage House features a down-home kind of menu — lots of quality, homecooked food at reasonable prices. Both of the specialties feature roast pork — pork tenderloin rolled around bread stuffing, and thick slices of pork tenderloin topped with homemade mincemeat and baked in a crust. Another specialty is a variety of ice cream pies for dessert.

The restaurant is open for lunch from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Saturday, and for dinner from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and from noon to 10 p.m. on Sunday. If you're staying at the inn, they will make reservations for you at the restaurant; if not, call (517) 845-7700.

## Nature comes 1st at Kiawah

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first. Most of the time, anyway. This is still a resort island and most people still come to play golf. I was there during the early spring; it was much more crowded in summer.

Mary and Bill Crowley of Novi spent part of their honeymoon on Kiawah. "There is not much to do if you are not a golfer," Mary said "but if you bike along the beach and beyond the resort areas you will find jungle wilderness. There are a lot of places on that island that have never been developed."

"Bill is a bicycle racer with the Wolverines in Northville so he loved riding that long sand beach."

I asked her if she would go back. "Yes, for a few days, although it is very expensive to stay there. The only restaurants are in the hotel and they cost a lot of money. It was our honeymoon, so we splurged."

Rates at one of the two-story wooden inn buildings are \$109 to \$220 a day. One-bedroom villas are about the same, but they have kitchen; weekly rates range from \$546 to \$1,344. Two-, three- and four-bedroom villas are also available, as are special packages.

The Kiawah Island Inn and Villas are built among the palmetto trees and lagoons at West Beach. The vil-

las they manage for owners are spread out along the beach in either direction behind the dunes.

The Kiawah Investment Co. crashed before the amenities at East Beach were finished, so the resort is now owned by Kiawah Resort Associates and managed by Oak Tree Hotels. There are plans to finish the rest of the eastern complex by the mid 1990s.

Meantime, golfers and alligators share the four golf courses on the island. When guests get tired of golf, tennis, the beach and periwinkles they eat at the Buccaneer restaurant just outside the gate or drive into Charleston.

Kids enjoy lots of daily activities under summer programs called Kamp Kiawah. They can crab in the marshes or pull a seine full of sea life from the Atlantic under the supervision of young naturalists.

But the day begins and ends on that beach that runs the 10-mile length of the island, 100 feet wide at low tide. The beach runs east and west, facing south across the Atlantic, so a beachcomber's day begins when the sun rises at the east end of the beach and ends when the sun sets at the west end.

For more information, contact your travel agent or call Kiawah Island Inn and Villas toll-free at (800) 654-2924.

## Tip for honeymooners: don't scrimp too much

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• Ask your travel agent about a package to Walt Disney World. Disney hotels are expensive; check the hotels in nearby Kissimmee.

• Check Caribbean package rates. You can go to Puerto Rico for a week, spend a few days in San Juan and then stay in paradises out-land for under \$60 a night.

• You probably can't do Hawaii but how about Mexico? Check packages to Acapulco or Puerto Vallarta. "Cancun is the most popular destination so hotels are sometimes more expensive there, sometimes they are not, so check it out. But a dinner that costs \$40 in Cancun costs \$20 in Puerto Vallarta."

So what about advice to the wedding-worm?

"Don't go away the day of the wedding. Stay 24 hours and enjoy the parties before you leave. Expect to be exhausted after the wedding. You will want to flop in the sun for two

or three days without thinking about where you will sightsee or how you will find your way through a foreign language.

"Don't scrimp too much. This is a special occasion. When asked what they would do differently, many honeymooners say that they would spend an extra \$50 for a room overlooking the sea instead of settling for one that overlooks the parking lot."

"Travel itself is stressful, so don't be surprised if everything looks strange to you on your first day. Couples go to the Caribbean, where luxury hotels look different. No elevators. Single story buildings. A smart hotel manager I know sends champagne to the room and tries to make them really comfortable the first day, by day two they feel right at home."

Do you have any honeymoon destinations or tips to share with our readers? Send them to me at 22004 Springbrook, Suite 206 C, Farmington Hills 48336.

## Baseball FanFest July 5-9 in Toronto

Toronto has added a new twist to baseball for the 62nd annual Major League Baseball All-Star game July 9. A five-day festival, the Coca-Cola All-Star FanFest will be presented July 5-9 by Major League Baseball, the Toronto Blue Jays and Madison Square Garden Event Productions.

FanFest will include appearances by well-known players and the largest exhibit ever on loan from the Baseball Hall of Fame, as well as a major collection of cards and memorabilia.

Tickets cost \$12 for adults, \$8 for children and seniors, and can be charged by phone at (416) 872-1111. Tickets are sold on a timed-entry basis, each hour on the hour, to reduce crowds.

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