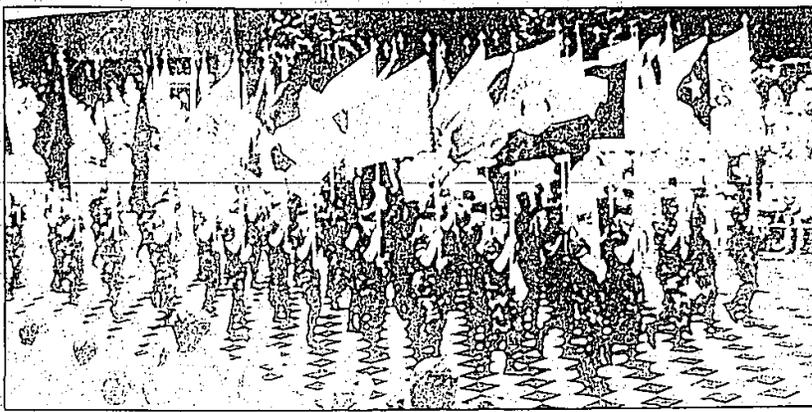


TRAVEL



Marching along: The three-mile 500 Festival Memorial Parade draws more than half a million spectators.

BY NANCY KRUPLES
NEW YORK TIMES SYNDICATE

The whole city of Indianapolis seems to swathe itself in black-and-white bunting for the entire month of May in preparation for the Indianapolis 500-Mile Race. In addition to race day, Sunday, May 24, there is a full calendar of other activities that make up the 500 Festival.

The theme of this year's festival is the 20th anniversary of Disney World, Mickey Mouse and costumed pals will cavort at many of the festival events.

As for the race, begun in 1911, it still lays claim to being the biggest single-day sporting event in the world, with most estimates placing attendance at about 400,000.

The start is a remarkable experience: the crowds, the bands, the thousands of balloons, the celebrity singer delivering "Back Home Again in Indiana." All of this is enveloped in the throbbing roar of 33 straining-to-go Cosworth, Chevy, Buick and Ford fuel-injected, high-compression engines.

Possibly no other event draws such a wildly diverse group of people, from the tattooed, T-shirted lurcher in some parts of the infield to the elegantly dressed viewers in the penthouse boxes and corporate suites.

Of course, most people show up in regular sports clothes and sneakers, hoping they've brought along enough sun block and sand-wiches to last the day.

Race Event

All seats for the race are reserved and prices this year range from \$18 for the infield bleachers

Back home again in
Indiana
Indianapolis revs up for race-time tourists

to \$100 for penthouse seats on the front straightaway. A good, middle-priced seat in the covered section on the outside of the front straightaway costs \$55.

The bad news is that since the Speedway begins filling orders the day after one year's race for the next year's event, all tickets for this year's race are long gone — at

least at the Speedway ticket office.

Some may still be available from ticket brokers or from classified ads in local newspapers, though usually at a considerable premium. One ticket broker, for instance, sells \$18 infield bleacher seats for \$55 and penthouse seats for \$309 to \$550.

The Indianapolis City Center, at 201 South Capitol Ave., Indianapolis, Ind., 46225, has a short list of ticket brokers, some of whom also offer packages with race tickets and hotel. For more information call (800) 323-4639.

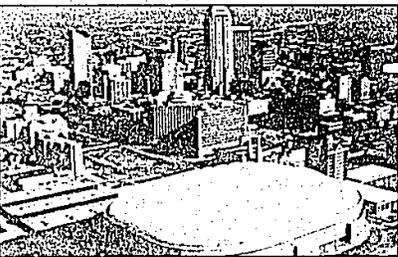
Ticket-order forms for the 1993 race will be available in mid-May from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway ticket office, P.O. Box 24152, Speedway, Ind. 46224. Current ticket holders get one week after the race to renew or upgrade their tickets before new orders are filled. For more information call (317) 248-6700.

General admission to the infield on race day costs \$15 a person, but this entitles you only to parking. Ad hoc camping takes place by the lines of cars that begin forming outside the track several days before the race. Traditionally, many in the infield come to party rather than to watch racing.

The race begins at 11 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time; most of Indiana does not go on daylight time), but there is pre-race activity from about 9 a.m. Gates into the Speedway grounds open at 5 a.m.

Also open to the public is Carburator Day, May 21, beginning at 11 a.m., when drivers and crews do last-minute fine-tuning. This is followed by the Mechanic's Recognition Party, a chicken picnic supper and ceremonies honoring the chief mechanics.

Tickets are \$48 from the 500 Festival. For the grounds admission fee of \$5 you get the track action but no party. For more information write to: 500 Festival, 1 Hoosier Dome, Suite 130, P.O. Box 817, Indianapolis, Ind. 46206; or call (800) 638-4296 or (317) 636-4556.



Centrally located: The Hoosier Dome, in the heart of downtown Indianapolis, is within walking distance of eight hotels, numerous restaurants, night clubs, theaters and other attractions.

SoHo bookstore has lock on Irish Culture

BY EVERETT POTTER
SPECIAL WRITER



New York's SoHo neighborhood is known for its art galleries, flashy boutiques and trendy gift stores.

So it's a bit of a surprise to discover a bastion of Irish language and literature in this world of leather jackets, portfolios and attitude.

Irish Books and Graphics is the name of a small shop owned by Angela Carter, a soft-spoken Irishwoman with fierce opinions about the way the Irish have been portrayed in books and on film.

"They come in here from Madison Avenue, these young kids looking for books about Ireland, and then they go out and perpetuate this 'Quiet Man' imagery," she says with disdain.

"The Quiet Man" (1952) is a classic film, with Bette Davis and Maureen O'Hara, about a loner who returns to his native Ireland; wins over the townsfolk and falls in love with a strong-willed Irish beauty.

"They never portray the Irish middle class or talk about the real problems of people finding work in Ireland. They never talk about emigration, which is the country's biggest problem."

Carter, a native of Keshkerriem, County Leitrim, came to America in 1963. She has been quietly changing the way people think about Ireland since she opened her first shop, Keshkerriem Books, on lower Broadway in Manhattan in 1978.

"I was looking for Irish books and finding that I had great difficulty in getting them," she said.

Two years ago she moved to the present location because of a rent increase. At that time she also renamed the shop "because it's easier for people to know what it's about."

Carter's stock is impressive — especially crammed into such a small space. There are photography books such as "The Pagan Hermitage of Skellig" by Michael Waizer Horn (University of California, 1990).

For information, including a free catalog, contact Irish Books and Graphics, 680 - Broadway, Room 1103, New York, N.Y. 10012 or call (212) 274-1923.

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Win a weekend getaway to the Stratford Festival in our "Where's William?" Contest.

Find William Shakespeare hidden in the pages of your Observer & Eccentric Newspaper today or in any Monday edition during the next four weeks and you will be eligible to win a weekend at the Stratford Festival in Ontario, Canada.

Eight Observer & Eccentric readers will win a three day weekend for two on Friday, June 19, through Sunday, June 21, 1992 which includes Friday and Saturday night lodging at the Victorian Inn, Saturday brunch at the Church Restaurant, and two tickets to three of this season's premier performances:

- William Shakespeare's "Romeo & Juliet"
- Robertson Davies' "World of Wonders"
- Gilbert & Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore"

Your package also includes a backstage tour of the world-renowned Festival Theatre as well as a post-performance reception on Saturday evening.

To qualify for a chance to win this wonderful theatre weekend, find William! Scan the pages of your Observer & Eccentric every Monday through May 25th and find where we've hidden a tiny picture of Shakespeare. Then, by May 29, mail a postcard or letter to:

Where's William?

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150

Clearly print your name, address, daytime telephone number, along with the issue date and code number under William Shakespeare's picture.



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