

# Aerial extravaganza lifts spirits

Battle Creek, Michigan—

The plans for the seventh Battle Creek International Balloon Championship and Air Show, July 3-10, are flying high as organizers prepare to make this summer's extravaganza the earmark for years to come!

"Our event is truly a family festival and we're excited with the growth we've experienced over the past six years," stated Barbara Haluszka, executive director.

"We originally just focused on hot-air balloons which began in 1981 when we hosted the World Championship. We then created and hosted the 1983 North American Challenge Cup; the 1985 World Championship, and now since 1987, the Battle Creek International Balloon Championship and Air Show," stated Haluszka.

"Although the hot-air balloons and the championship is the main focus, we felt it was necessary to create additional activities so that for one full-week in July we could be a 'one-stop shop' mega festival. We became even more convinced that we needed to increase our activities not only on the ground but in the air as well, after we proudly hosted the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds back in 1987," Haluszka said.

The air show planned for this summer's event will offer the best of the best in aviation. July 3 and 4 spectators will be able to watch the awesome Sean D. Tucker in the "Randolph Challenger—a Pitts Special." Sean is no stranger to the art of daredevil aerobatic flying. Sean claims that the spirit of flying comes

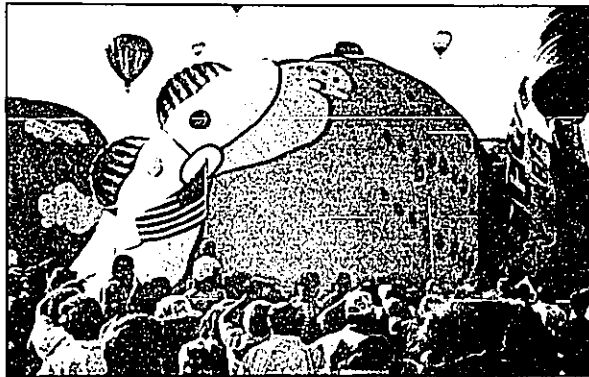
from within and refers to his performance as the "Art of the Dance." Additional acts will include the loveable husband and wife flight team—The French Connection; Don Johnson, twice national champion; The Sharks; Battle Creek's own Bob Koppe; the Pepsi Skydancer; F-15 demo; and the famous John Ellis in the WWII Grumman Tigercat. And when we said the best of the best, I'm sure you'll agree that nobody does it better than the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds! What could possibly make a July 4th holiday more spectacular than the most patriotic demonstration team in America," Haluszka said.

However, the fun doesn't stop there! Besides the air show on July 3 and 4, the first mass balloon launch is set for Saturday at 6:30 p.m., and at 10:15 p.m. the ever popular "Balloon Night Illume."

"I truly believe that anyone who misses our July 4 extravaganza will be forever sorry," stated Haluszka.

"There will be two balloon launches, full-fledged air show, and the outstanding Grucci Fireworks display brought to us by Kellogg Company."

"I guess you can say that the balloon launches, entertainment and air show alone are well worth the \$2 admission fee to the festival grounds. In fact, stated Haluszka, I don't know of an event in the country that offers so much for so little." This year's parking fee is only \$4, however, there is a discount coupon for \$4 off an oil change at any West Michigan Toyota dealership. And, if you collect any box top from Kellogg cereals, you can receive \$1 off the gate fee, or collect



UP, UP AND AWAY— Specialty balloons in the likeness of cartoon characters delight kids of all ages visiting the Battle Creek International Balloon Championship and Air Show.

Winston coupons and receive free admission.

"We also have the Funland Amusement Park with over 35 rides, games and food booths," Haluszka said.

"Our two newest editions to the festival include a special shaped rodeo and a big top three ring circus. The special shaped rodeo will consist of 20 plus special shaped balloons such as Disney's Castle, Tony the Tiger, a clown, a bear, a corn cob, a tractor, Mickey Mouse, Sugar Bear and the list goes on. These shapes will fly Wednesday, July 7 and Thursday, July

8, plus a special night illume on Thursday evening.

Circus International will provide a three ring circus with daily performances, lasting nearly an hour per show. Cost is \$2 per person. Acts will include Afghan dogs, clowns, elephants, tigers, magicians and more.

So, from hot-air to cool entertainment, the Battle Creek International Balloon Championship and Air Show has it all! For more information call (616) 962-0592 or write: B.C.H.A.B.C. Inc., 237 North Helmer Road, Battle Creek, MI 49015.

## Events

Continued From Page 38  
313-985-9623

**JULY 8-10**  
**ELSIE**  
*Dairy Festival*  
Downtown - Parade on July 10.  
517-862-4344

**JULY 8-11**  
**AUBURN**  
*Cornfest*  
Auburn Cornfest Grounds  
517-622-4001  
**MACKINAC ISLAND**  
*Old-Fashioned Chautauqua*  
Downtown - Storytelling and hayrides.  
906-847-3783

**JULY 9-10**  
**FLINT**  
*Michigan Storytellers Festival*  
Crossroads Village & Huckleberry Railroad  
313-736-7100, 800-648-PARK

**JULY 9-11**  
**FRANKENMUTH**  
*Sports Festival*  
Heritage Park  
517-652-8155

**JULY 10**  
**CHARLEVOIX**  
*Crafts Show*  
Downtown

616-547-2101  
**CHEBOYGAN**  
*Art Festival*  
Washington Park  
616-627-7183  
**GRAND HAVEN**  
*Classic Wooden Boat Rendezvous*  
Municipal Marina  
616-342-0470

**JULY 10-11**  
**DEARBORN**  
*Colonial Life Festival*  
Greenfield Village  
313-271-1620  
**MARSHALL**  
*Welcome to My Garden Tour*  
616-781-5922

**JULY 11**  
**CHELSEA**  
*Michigan Geology Festival*  
Gerald E. Eddy Geology Center  
313-475-3170

**JULY 12-17**  
**CHESANING**  
*Showboat Festival*  
Showboat Park  
517-345-3055

**JULY 13-17**  
**GAYLORD**  
*Alpenfest*  
517-732-4000

**JULY 13-18**  
**EAST TAWAS**  
*Marinerfest*  
517-362-8643, 800-55-TAWAS

**JULY 15**  
**MANCHESTER**  
*Chicken Broil Fest*  
Manchester Middle School  
313-428-7722

**JULY 15-17**  
**ADRIAN**  
*Summerfest*  
Downtown  
517-263-2679  
**FARMINGTON**  
*Founders Summer Festival*  
Downtown - Parade on July 17.  
313-474-3440

**JULY 16-18**  
**DAVISBURG**  
*Hot-Air Balloon Festival*  
Springfield Oaks County Park  
313-625-8133

**JULY 17**  
**PETOSKEY**  
*Art in the Park*  
Pennsylvania Park  
616-347-4150

**JULY 17-18**  
**HICKORY CORNERS**  
*Mopars at the Red Barns*  
**GREAT LAKES GETAWAY**

Gilmore Classic Car Club Museum  
616-671-5089  
**HILLSDALE**

*Palettes and Petals*  
Garden tour and art show.  
517-439-4341

**MARSHALL**  
*Antique Market*  
Calhoun County Fairgrounds  
616-789-0990  
**MASON**  
*Antiques and Collectibles Superfest*  
Ingham County Fairgrounds  
517-676-2079  
**MUSKEGON**  
*Air Fair*  
Muskegon County Airport  
616-798-4596

**JULY 17-19**  
**MACKINAC ISLAND**  
*Chicago to Mackinac Island Yacht Race*  
906-847-3783

**JULY 18-AUGUST 29**  
(Sundays & Wednesdays)  
**SHELBYVILLE**  
*Fontana Chamber Music Festival*  
Art Emporium  
616-382-0826

**JULY 1993**

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