

# GO! TRAVEL

## Tennessee getaway full of adventure

BY SANDRA DALKA-PRYSBY  
SPECIAL WRITER

What could have been a less-than-exciting trip turned into a wonderful adventure in the hills — and one specific mountain — in Tennessee.

It started with a 600-mile-plus trip down I-75 to Cleveland, Tenn. This southern town was the site of the Drum Majorettes of America's initial national competition.

A number of local twirlers placed in the top of the DMA competition: Stephanie Allen, Heather Barnes, Jessica Carps and Lisa Gutman, of Farmington Hills; Kami Laura and Erica Rugginello, of Livingston; Jenny Svoboda, of West Bloomfield; and Emily Pryby of Birmingham. All are students of Derek Skarvi of West Bloomfield.

While this event can be exciting for twirlers and their parents, more was needed to make this an enjoyable getaway.

The solution was 30 miles to the south in Chattanooga. This picturesque city is home to Lookout Mountain, a 2,126-foot natural landmark that was the site of Civil War battles. Also, it

has long been famous for its caves. (The name Chattanooga is from the Cherokee Indians and means "rock coming to a point"). At the foot of the mountain is the entrance to Lookout Mountain Cave, which is estimated to run the entire length — 82 miles — of the mountain. This cave has been well-used through the years as a shelter, first by Indians, later by settlers. During the Civil War, it was a Confederate military hospital.

In 1923, Leo Lambert, an Indiana native who was fascinated by caves, decided to open Lookout Mountain Cave to the public. It was this desire that created one of Chattanooga's more popular tourist attractions.

While drilling an elevator shaft, Lambert's workers discovered a second and more beautiful cave. But that wasn't the only discovery. About 2,200 feet from the elevator shaft, the workers found a 145-foot waterfall. It was named Ruby Falls after Lambert's wife.

A winding trip up the narrow Lookout Mountain Scenic Highway (a borrowed and very large Ford van made this upward journey seem even more harrowing) brings visitors to Ruby Falls and the Lookout Mountain Caverns, which are located 1,120 feet below

the mountain top.

The one-hour guided cave tour lets visitors enjoy the cavern's sheer beauty. In a year-round temperature of 70 degrees, visitors walk sometimes narrow and sometimes slippery pathways to view various formations of stalactites (those that hang from the ceiling) and stalagmites (those that grow up from the floor) and columns (those that grow together).

Colored lights are used to enhance the formations. In some areas, water drips from the ceiling; in others, rivers of water weave through the formations. Heavy into the tour, visitors hear the roar of the waterfall. All lights are temporarily extinguished. Then, very dramatically, the lights return and music blares for the visitors' first sight of a powerful water flow from the cutting into a four-foot-deep natural pool.

According to the guide, the source of the waterfall is unknown. It is believed that the water from the falls eventually flows into the Tennessee River, at the base of Lookout Mountain. As visitors surround the falls, a cool spray refreshes them and the return journey. Different passageways provide tourists with views

of additional and beautiful rock formations.

Breath-taking views do not end when the cave tour is over. Visitors can climb Lookout Mountain tower for spectacular vistas of Chattanooga, the Tennessee Valley and surrounding mountains.

Ruby Falls is open every day except Christmas. Hours (through March) are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The one-hour, 10-minute tours leave every 15 minutes.

For information on Chattanooga's entertainment, educational, arts, nature and shopping opportunities, call the Chattanooga Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, 1-800-322-3344.

Lookout Mountain and its various offerings include a one-mile incline ride, Rock City Gardens and Point Park. The latter commemorates the veterans of the Battle of Chattanooga and is the site of the Civil War's "Battle Above the Clouds."

There are other attractions, like the Tennessee Aquarium, the Chattanooga Choo Choo and Model Railroad Display and the Hunter Museum of Art.

## Join archaeologists in Israel this summer

A unique opportunity for students and all people interested in Judeo-Christian history to dig with renowned archaeologists will be offered in the summer of 1995 by the Israel Archaeological Society.

Planned excavations include the City of David, just outside the gates of Jerusalem, under the direction of Dr. Ronny Reich of the Israel Antiquities Authority. Another dig will take place in an-

cient Jaffa, under the direction of Dr. Ze'ev Herzog of Tel Aviv University.

For a complete list of programs, contact 800-ISRAEL-8 (800-477-2358).

"This is a chance for people to get hands-on digging experience with experts at the world's hottest sites," said Arthur D. Greenberg, society spokesman. "They can also enjoy the culture of major cities in Israel, Egypt and Jordan,

and places such as Cairo, the Pyramids and Petra."

Among those likely to participate in these excavations will be famed archaeologist Vendyl Jones, expected to be digging at Qumran in Israel and in Jordan. Known by many as the prototype for the hero, Indiana Jones, in the movie blockbuster "Raiders of the Lost Ark," Jones made the highly publicized discovery of Holy Incease and Holy Anointing

Oil at the site of the Holy Temple in 1988.

The 1995 expeditions will last from one to six weeks with costs starting at \$795. The Society's featured expedition runs from July 1 through July 23; it includes two weeks of digging and touring in Israel plus another week exploring Jordan and Egypt. University students may enroll for credit. Seniors and families with older children are also eligible for the Society's programs.

## Great Escapes

Send items to be considered for publication to: Keely Wygonik, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or by fax (313)591-7279.

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1-800-723-8824, Ext. 2405

## Entertaining Choices

## Fine cast in entertaining musical

BY SANDRA DALKA-PRYSBY  
SPECIAL WRITER

Some musicals are called entertaining, some are marvelous, others are refreshing. All three adjectives, and maybe even more, can be used to describe the Bloomfield Hills Pine Lake Elementary production, "Bye Bye Birdie."

There are a number of standouts in the large (50-plus) cast of adults, teens and children. A few, Kay-Ellen Murphy (Rose), Linda Garfield (Mrs. Peterson) and Jacob Wagner (Conrad) are real scene stealers. Murphy, because of her humor, Garfield, because he is so convincing as an egotistical show throb.

Murphy, in addition to having a fine voice, is lovable as Rose. In fact, she is so good as "lovable" — and smart — that it's surprising that she has such trouble landing the leading man.

Garfield garners the most applause throughout the performance, and rightly so. While her words affirm her as a pushy and domineering mother, it's her wit — quick and purposeful — that shows she's in control.

Wagner, a senior at Birmingham Groves High School, has a number of attributes that enhance his character, such as

swooning movements. However, his best "Birdie" feature is that he looks good in both leather and gold lame.

Another actor, F. Patrick Devine, lives up to his last name as the show's lead, Albert Peterson. Devine's son, Eric, a student at Bloomfield Hills Pine Lake Elementary, is a member of the Children's Chorus.

Devine's character, Albert, is a true "mama's boy," who can't be definite about his love for his secretary, "Rose," until unexpected events in the small town of Sweet Apple, Ohio, intervene.

Once Albert sends teen singing idol Conrad Birdie off to a new career in the army (Elvis Presley), he declares his love and his desire to become an English teacher in Iowa, to Rose.

He does this even as his disapproving mother tells him, "You're just like your father. You'd marry anybody." (This is just one of the many amusing lines in the play).

With fine performances by the leads and excellent support by other cast members, "Bye Bye Birdie" is an enjoyable family entertainment. But acting and singing alone does not make this production so memorable.

The music is a major factor in

### REVIEW

this show's success. The songs, such as "Put a Little Love in Your Heart," "A Lot Livin' to Do" and "Kids" are lively and entertaining. (Larry Miller, as Mr. MacAfee, puts a lot of zip in "Kids").

The 17-member orchestra, directed by Kim Bishop, does an outstanding job presenting the music. However, during a couple of songs, the strong and loud music washed out the singer. This was especially true when Sarah Beth Radtke (Kim MacAfee), who has a lovely voice, sang.

While the music regulates the audience's ears, the play also is a treat to the eyes.

The scenery, compliments of Paul Morfin (set construction), is exceptional in its simplicity. Pastel shades of pink, purple, green, blue and yellow are used on boxes and pedestals and platforms, giving a "spring freshness" to the production.

The lighting, especially the use of back lighting, also adds to the production on a major scale. David Nelson (lights and technical director) deserves a great deal of praise for his fine work.

Most every scene of this musical



### "Bye Bye Birdie"

► **THEATRE:** Bloomfield Players at Lahser High School Theatre, 3456 Lahser Road, Bloomfield Hills.

► **CURTAIN TIME:** 8 p.m. Thurs.-Sat., March 23-26; 2 p.m. Sun., March 26.

► **TICKETS:** \$8 adults, \$7 seniors and children. Call (310) 433-0855 for ticket information.

cal production (and there are 17) is wonderfully engaging. However, there are two — both featuring or done without entirely.

The "One Hundred Ways Ballet" is a somewhat dull and mildly violent interpretation of Rose's daydream of "killing" Albert. The citizens and prancing and cavorting... and dancing and prancing and cavorting with a group of Shriners.

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