

4-H Exploration Days This Week

"Learning by doing" is the theme of the fourth annual Michigan State University 4-H Exploration Days, taking place Thursday through Saturday.

On hand for the event will be more than 4,000 4-Hers who will participate in more than 30 different group activities, according to Lowell Rothert, program leader of 4-H youth programs.

"THE PURPOSE of this program is to learn new ideas and skills that youths and adults can take back to their local communities," Rothert said. "Many of the ideas they learn will be put into action."

As an example, he told a story about a Macomb county boy who came to Action Day two years ago and saw an artificial respiration demonstration.

"Later on that year," Rothert said, "this young man saved the life of someone by that same method."

THIS IS WHAT 4-H is all about, he added, teaching kids to do things that would be



Lowell Rothert

helpful to them and others in society.

Thursday and Friday of the three-day event will be used by the 4-H members to participate in "action-learning" experiences in specific interest areas.

Some of these areas include candle making, cartooning, electrical repairs, first aid techniques, modern crafts, leathercraft tooling, paper printing and darkroom techniques.

ON SATURDAY, the public is invited to attend Action Day, which will provide continuous demonstrations in many areas. It will be held in the Spartan Stadium concourse from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This is the largest 4-H event in the state and Rothert said he's happy with interest in the program.

There's one thing that bothers him though, the image that the public has of 4-H programs.

"WE'RE NOT just interested in farming, there are many other areas that we participate in also," Rothert said. "Agriculture is one aspect of it, but it's not the only thing."

"We believe that we have something to offer every youth, no matter where he or she lives," he said. "As far as resources go, we probably have more in farming, but we also have supplies in other areas."

Rothert said Michigan's 4-H has a well rounded program that more than 134,000 individuals take part in.

By JIM HOUGH

Vacations have a way of boosting your morale. You come back to work that first day and you are lighthearted and happy.

That's the way it was with me Monday — until I read that dumb old brick joke in the Monday column written by my colleague, Dan Biddle. Dan is a fine young man, but his humor is . . . well, it's enough to take the edge off a good vacation. Tell me, did you ever read a worse joke than that? My fellow staffers seem to enjoy rattling my chain in this column while I'm on vacation. The worst trick ever pulled on me was the time Roy Cross wrote a substitute Onlooker on the day I was to return from vacation. It started a tallest gladiolus contest with an entry that was only eight inches high. Cross knew I'd spend the whole day answering the phone on my first day back, taking calls from dozens — no hundreds — of persons who proudly reported taller gladiolus plants.

After I suffered through the Dan Biddle column Monday, I began opening my mail. The first two letters I opened were from readers still giving me my come-uppance for the Polish joke printed here two weeks ago.

The third letter upset me even more. It was from a friend, a great guy, a man I have admired for many years, Edwin "Red" Byrd, vice president and general manager of WILS Radio Station. Red's letter said:

"Dear Jim:

"I felt like an orphan reading your article last night regarding the softball benefit omitting WILS from the list of participants. It was very painful for me in as much as this idea was originally started by WILS."

As his note indicates, Red Byrd has intense pride in his radio station. That's one of the reasons I admire him.

I'm at a loss to explain why WILS was left out of that list of participants in the annual "media tournament" to raise money for the Potter Park Zoo development. At first, I couldn't believe I left it out. I thought the printers had made an error. But, I checked it out and my original news copy did not list WILS. I feel badly about it. While I don't want to compound the problem by irritating other radio station managers, I will say that I feel especially bad about omitting WILS. That station and its personnel do a great measure of public service in their off duty hours. I'm sure Red Byrd's leadership is a big reason for that.

Red is the kind of man who inspires you. I remember the first time I met him several years ago in his office. We had a long talk about a community service project in which we were requesting his aid. When our conversation ended and I got up to leave, Red reached behind his desk and came up with two crutches. He began rocking very hard, forward and backward, in his desk chair. Suddenly, he made a full lunge forward and, with the aid of the crutches, was standing to offer a handshake. That was my first knowledge of his severe handicap.

Red suffers from crippling arthritis. Although he cannot drive and his worsening condition gives him daily pain, Red never misses work. What's more, he puts in a 10-hour day. He has been with WILS since the station was born in 1947 and he has been general manager for 15 years. He was a U.S. Navy pilot in World War II. His record of public service — scouting, Chamber of Commerce, school boards and more — would fill a book. And, he is respected in his profession. His fellow broadcasters elected him president of the Michigan Association of Broadcasters.

Yep, Red Byrd is good folks and I'm darned sorry that Onlooker column last week omitted his station's call letters. As it turned out, the benefit tournament, set for July 4th, was rained out. It has been rescheduled for August 4. And, you can bet WILS will be there, along with WITL, WJIM, WVIC, WILX and teams from The State Journal, Towne Courier and the Mayor's office.



Millie Maikin
AT
LINCOLN,
NEBASKA.

JUNE

1974 National Gem & Mineral Show



JUNE 13, 14, 15, 16, 1974

NEBRASKA STATE FAIR GROUNDS
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

HOSTED BY:
LINCOLN GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.



JUNE

Dear Friends,

I am glad to be able to congratulate your fine club on winning one of the five All American club awards allotted to Midwest in the AFMS All American contest. Our five winners have been sent to the National judges to be judged for the top clubs of the year in the whole nation. As winner of one of the five Midwest awards you will receive a trophy. I am not sure at this time if these will be presented at the banquet at Lincoln or not, but they may be. At any rate a list of winners will be read at the banquet, and the winners will also be announced at the Midwest Council meeting.

Thank you for participating in this contest and for all the wonderful things you are doing for the hobby and for the Federation and for your community. The competition was very keen as there were almost 60 entries, so the winning of this award is really an outstanding accomplishment. Best wishes for continued stimulating club work, and again congratulations to each and every member. See you in Lincoln!

Sincerely,
June Culp Zeitner
AFMS All American Chairman for Midwest
Midwest Merit Award Chairman

FIELD TRIPS -- Thanks to Mr. Calvin Loomis, our field trip to Alpena was a great success. There were several other clubs that joined us including one from Wisconsin. We all had good luck collecting and beautiful weather.

Two summer field trips have been arranged, both to favorite collecting sites. And both at quarries where only groups with special permission may collect. The first is to Pugh Quarry for calcite, July 13. The second is to Amherstburg Aug. 3, blue celestite, calcite, and sometimes fluorite, sulphur, and quartz. Hard hats, safety glasses, and heavy shoes are required, and hammers, pry bars, and drills or chisels will be needed. Be at both quarries by 10:00 a.m. to sign a release and go in with the group. Driving directions are on Page 2.

Don't forget our annual picnic June 30 (note change of date) at Loyd and Lola Pearson's, 6975 Foster Road, Haslett. Take Haslett Road to Shoeman, turn left, go to Barry Road, turn right to Foster, turn left. Be sure to bring your own table settings, and one of your good dishes to pass that we all enjoy eating. Bring folding chairs for seating at the table.

Milo Hillis, Field Trip Chairman

MSU SCHOLARSHIP -- At the May meeting Bettie Patterson announced the MSU geology student chosen to receive the CML&MS scholarship this spring. The winner is Constance C. Chmiel, a junior from Detroit. Bettie worked on the scholarship committee with members of the Geology Department at MSU, and tells us that it was a most interesting assignment to interview the candidates for the award. She recommends that other club members volunteer for the post. Congratulations go to Miss Chmiel, with good wishes for her success in her chosen field.

JUNE PICNIC AT PEARSONS

