

ECHO ECHO ECHO ECHO

Elmira offers other diversions when Twain-mania wears thin

By Elizabeth Berliner

Being a relatively humble town, Elmira has suffered each summer in comparison to the tourist attractions of its neighboring areas. Auto racing draws immense crowds to Watkins Glen, while Corning is popular for its Corning Glass Center and annual Ladies Professional Golf tournament.

Recently, however, the chamber of commerce, in cooperation with several area businesses and organizations, has begun to woo tourists by promoting Elmira's ties to noted American author/humorist Mark Twain. Throughout the summer, proud Elmirans and a bevy of billboards erected throughout the area have hailed visitors with the slogan, "Welcome to Mark Twain Country."

Mark Twain's relationship to the Elmira area began in 1868 when, at the age of 32, he became acquainted with Elmira native Charles Langdon, a fellow passenger on a Caribbean cruise. The two became close friends, and when Twain spied a small portrait of Langdon's sister Olivia, it was love at first sight. A year later, Twain visited the area and met Olivia in person; three years later, they were married.

Twain was much impressed with the beauty of Elmira, and the family spent many summers with Olivia's aunt, Mrs. Theodore Crane, at her Quarry Farms home. In 1874, Mrs. Crane had a study for Twain built approximately 100 yards from the farm as a surprise gift. Designed as a replica of a steamship captain's room, the study provided the prolific author

with the peace and inspiration to produce some of his most successful works, including *Tom Sawyer* and *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*.

A full-scale drama depicting Twain's life has been staged this summer in the Elmira area, to draw visitors to this largely unexplored tourist attraction. The play's cast is composed mostly of native Elmirans, although local talent was augmented by actors found in auditions held throughout New York State, including the larger cities of Syracuse and Rochester. The program debuted June 18 at the Murray Athletic Center at Elmira College, under the direction of William Perry.

Mark Twain fever has indeed caught on, and visitors have found themselves inundated by the enthusiasm. They can stay in the Mark Twain hotel, eat at the Twain Ice Creamery, visit the Twain study, and be photographed beside the Twain bulletin board. If Twain-mania becomes just a little overwhelming, however, tourists can find refuge in the daily trolley tours of the other area attractions, including the Civil War Camp and the Arnot Art Museum. And if culture and history wear thin, they can always indulge themselves with a shopping spree at the massive Arnot Mall complex.

It seems, in fact, that Elmira had something for everyone this summer, and — like Mark Twain himself — tourists have undoubtedly found themselves enraptured by the beauty and attractions of the Elmira area.



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ECHO. . .on the rebound!

Returning after a summer of fun to the Courier-Journal. ECHO..written by students for students will be back for the school year starting in September. Speaking Out, Equal Time and features geared toward high school students will be back along with the House of Guitars Trivia questions! Got any bright ideas? Get in touch with **your** school representatives and let them know what you'd like to see more of! Keep in touch . . . with **ECHO!**



Speaking Out

By Dena LoBiando

Should a school nurse or doctor be able to provide teenage students with contraceptives? This is an important issue in today's society because of the sudden increase in the number of teenage pregnancies each year.

Yet a simple answer to the above question will never be reached because contraceptives and teen pregnancy each involve a number of positive and negative aspects.

First of all, many people see high schools as places to learn not only academic subjects but moral values as well. Schools are places where — with the help of good upbringings and teacher guidance — teenagers can search for their identities and establish values by which to live. Therefore, many people feel that schools should not become involved with the functions of a doctor's office.

Others, however, believe that in-school birth control clinics will be helpful for those students who are unable to talk to their parents about sexual matters. In-

school clinics would give teens the opportunity to obtain guidance and information from knowledgeable sources, without having to travel all around the city looking for help.

In Catholic schools, on the other hand, the question of birth-control clinics would be further complicated because of the Catholic Church's teachings that premarital sex is wrong and that artificial means of birth control are not acceptable.

Thus, for such clinics to be established in Catholic schools would not only contradict our religious beliefs, but would also seem to be promoting a mode of action for teenagers.

Nevertheless, debate on school-based health clinics continues because of the clinics' advantages and disadvantages, as well as their far-reaching consequences.

State assembly speaker offers brochure on teen suicide

"Teen Suicide, A Growing Tragedy," a brochure that provides an extensive list of factors contributing to adolescent suicide and the characteristics of at-risk youth, is now available through New York State Assembly Speaker Mel Miller's Rochester Regional Office.

A chart to aid concerned individuals in identifying the symptoms and signs of drug abuse is also available.

People wishing to obtain copies of the brochure should write or call: Speaker's Rochester Regional Office, 30 W. Broad Street, Suite 305, Rochester, 14614, or call (716)546-1011.

HOUSE OF GUITARS

We received 7 correct entries identifying "Even Now" as the 1983 Bob Seger hit.

The winner was **Cathy MaKitra** of Bath

MUSIC TRIVIA

This week's question:

From what Rolling Stones song do the following lyrics come from: "It is the evening of the day. I sit and watch the children play?"

A:

Rules:

Each week, the Courier-Journal, in conjunction with the House of Guitars will feature a Music Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable), cut out the coupon, and send it in to the Courier-Journal. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn.

If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a coupon for a free album or tape of your choice redeemable at the House of Guitars, 645 Titus Ave.

All entries must be received within seven days of this paper's issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

The Courier-Journal

Music Trivia

1150 Buffalo Rd.

Rochester, N.Y. 14624

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

School _____