

C19 (Monday, July 29, 1996) South Bend Tribune

Curious drawn to religious sale

City of David selling bits of past

By ANDREW S. HUGHES

BENTON HARBOR — If you're a fan of the City of David, you'll find it hard to resist the lure of the religious group's English roots.

"I think the word 'fair' threw some people," City of David member and fair organizer R. James Taylor said. "The Old English word for 'fair' is 'fair', and since some of our roots are English, we decided to use 'fair'."

The Christian religious group traces its roots to English churchman Joanna Southcott, who wrote from a trance in 1792 and declared herself the first of seven prophets who the Lord would use to gather 144,000 people from the 12 lost tribes of Israel. Traditionally, group members have referred to themselves as Israelites.

Since the 1850s, the Israelites have grown their hair and beards long and practiced celibacy and vegetarianism. The City of David colony is down to 12 members. Their average age is 70, and the last two to join, Taylor and James Crow, did so in 1977, Taylor is 63.

Taylor said the purpose of the fair was to raise money for building restoration and to increase awareness of the group. The colony was last open to outsiders 20 years ago, when the House of David operated a summer amusement and resort park.

"From though people are buying things from the past, the fair is geared to bringing people back and to interaction with the community," Taylor said. "Even though we are down to a few in number and looked upon as a fringe, we are still dedicated to the future, and we look upon this as a means to greater exposure. It's like we need to have. We used to have things all summer long, and it's nice to do it again."

While the first three hours Saturday, 135 people had been admitted to the colony's picnic grounds, where the sale is being held. It continues from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free. Volunteers receive a number and are admitted a few people at a time to avoid overcrowding.

Small Investment, Great Return!
238 W. Main St., Ste. 100
S.B. 46600-1000

Contact Lenses for ASTIGMATISM
Soft & Gas Permeable
Dr. James M. Dowers O.D.
214-232-2577

Keep This Ad By The Telephone
EMERGENCY DENTAL CARE
BOOK ORAL DENTISTRY
272-4411
Emergency fee \$15.00 to \$25.00

Dr. Gregory C. MDO
DENTAL WILLIAMS OFFICE
cosmetic, surgical & orthodontic

COOL SUMMER CUTS
Let us Create a Fresh New Look Just for You!
234-6213
234-6213

House of Antidote
Lamps • Shades • Pictures
REPAIRS OUR SPECIALTY
Tiffany • Fairs • Bibles
229-8778
702 MAIN STREET

The colony was last open to outsiders 20 years ago, when the House of David operated a summer amusement and resort park.

The Israelites come to Benton Harbor in 1968 as the House of David and were an integral part of the city's growth in the first three decades of the century. Members operated their own shops, worked the city's street cars and made the area a vacation hotspot with their amusement park. The House of David's banished team was a popular draw on the summer circuit around the nation and may be the cause for which they are best remembered.

"I used to come here as a kid," Mike Bucklander of Benton Harbor said, explaining his interest in the fair. "They are to Benton Harbor what Shakespeare is to South Bend."

An avid collector of the group's memorabilia, Bucklander was more interested in reliving memories than buying anything in particular.

"I came to get into this building," he said. "It's the old synagogue, and I'm Jewish. It just brings back memories. The Jewish community came here from Chicago for the resort cottages."

Bob Gullies of St. Joseph came to the fair out of curiosity and the hope of buying a piece of history. Although he said he has some misgivings about the enterprise, "I'm hoping they turn it into a museum," he said. "I don't like seeing sales like this. I'd rather see it preserved as a museum and have them make their money from the admission fees. But if they are going to sell it, I'd like to get some of it."

REPLACEMENT WINDOWS
CALL OUR EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS TODAY
ESTIMATES
FOR ALL YOUR WINDOW NEEDS!
QUALITY
WINDOW & DOOR
674-0867

"Kick Off Summer" Reading Program
June 3 - July 31, 1996

Presented by the College Football Hall of Fame, Metropolitan State Public Library, St. Joseph County Public Library and the South Bend Tribune.

THERE'S STILL TIME TO JOIN THE FUN!
The South Bend Tribune, The College Football Hall of Fame and your local library are sponsoring a Summer Reading Program for young people in grades 3 to 9. There are 5 levels of participation to complete the summer reading program. At each level, you will need to read a certain number of South Bend Tribune. Each level will have a specific prize to win.

1. Pick up a registration form at your library.
2. Read the required number of books/newspapers.
3. Have each prize level area stamped at your library.
4. Claim your prize at the College Football Hall of Fame.

In addition to the prizes at each level, for every 3 books read, a bonus "chance" will be given to you as an entry for the Grand Prize of a pair of shoes from K. J. Spence Sales Company, Inc. This prize will be awarded at the end of the program. Summer Reading Program ends July 31. Prizes must be redeemed by Aug. 16, 1996.

REGISTER FOR THIS PROGRAM AT YOUR ST. JOSEPH COUNTY OR METROPOLITAN PUBLIC LIBRARY. PRIZE LIST & RULES AVAILABLE AT REGISTRATION.

List of more books available at your library:
Walk Two Moons—Sharon Creech
Taking the Ferry Home—Pan Conrad
The Green—Lori Lott
Thumper Doesn't Blame with James—Paula Danziger
Go Solby—Christopher Pike
Mary Wolf—Cynthia Grant
Red Air Band and the Mail Kats—Richard Peck
Lads—Paul Zindel
Janelle—Alice Mead
King's Equal—Katherine Paterson
Shadow Holes—Jan Lively Hertz
The Vandemark Mystery—Cynthia Wright
The Outsider—S.E. Hinton

PUNCH



Gene Eddy, left, and Tom Oberheu look over an account of the City of David colony's grandfather was a member of the sect.

Betty and Lyndon Babcock of Bridgman would also prefer to see the settlement and its artifacts preserved in a museum setting.

"The best stuff's still at home," Taylor said, alluding his customers' fears. "It's precious to us."

He added that the group is preserving the museum idea.

A traveling Kentucky brown salesman, Benjamin Purnell and his wife Mary, brought the settlement to Benton Harbor in 1988. They had converted to the religion and moved to Detroit, where he seventh prophet, Michael Mills, had a colony. Purnell became a preacher, and in 1980 was evicted from the group when he declared himself the true seventh prophet. After Mills was arrested for sexual assault of the sect's young women in a "dismantling of the blood," it was the same crime that had gotten the fifth prophet, John Wines, and the group banished from England in the 1840s.

The Purnells spent several years on the road before founding their community in Benton Harbor. Over the next 20 years, their holdings grew to an estimated 17 million and included the mansion Shiloh, where the colony's offices were kept and where Benjamin lived.

Troubled teen-ager may be addicted

DEAR ANN LANDERS: When I read the letter from "Parents of an Out-of-Control Son," I knew I had to write. That letter could have been written by my husband and me. The behavior described was identical to what we had experienced. We were stunned by the situation.

We took our son, "John," to a psychologist and sent him to special schools including the best military academy in the South. We tried "tough love" and finally psychiatric hospitalization. Nothing worked. The day before John's 18th birthday, my husband had a heart attack. I was unable to contact John because he was not West somewhere trying to "find himself."

Fast forward to our son and where he is now: Would you believe he is happily married and the father of two fine boys? His problem was classic alcoholism, drinking made him not only drunk but crazy. It was Alcoholics Anonymous that turned him around.

DEAR ANN: Our 12-year-old son fit the behavioral pattern of the lad in your column. We, too, had holes in the walls, broken windows, smashed furniture and multiple suspensions from school. "The One of his teachers said, 'This is not a behavioral problem. Your son is mentally ill.' We took him for a psychiatric evaluation, and he was right. That was the day the healing began. What we do for our son is to be grateful to God for his help."

DEAR ANN: My heart went out to the parent with the out-of-control son because I have walked in their shoes. I was willing to bet that their boy is on crystal methamphetamine. Crystal meth is the most wicked drug of all. Formerly call the users "the ivy class."

Our 12-year-old daughter was an ivy class and had to be hospitalized to get off. The process cost us more than \$25,000, but it was worth it. She is now happily married and a strong supporter of Narcotics Anonymous.

DEAR ANN: The boy who punches holes in the walls is on crystal meth. I recognize the symptoms because our son was on it at age 14.

ANN LANDERS YOUR PROBLEMS

People who are on this drug lose weight, go without sleep for long periods of time, become violent and their crash for days, just as your reader described. That boy needs to get into a rehab center.

NO NAME, NO CITY
DEAR ANN: That out-of-control kid is on speed or meth. Both are cheap, easy to buy on the street and highly addictive, and they make people violent and destructive. Speed and meth addicts don't get off the stuff by themselves. They need hospitalization.

OAKLAND, CALIF.
DEAR ANN: Thanks for the input. Keep reading for a different explanation.

DEAR ANN: Our 12-year-old son fit the behavioral pattern of the lad in your column. We, too, had holes in the walls, broken windows, smashed furniture and multiple suspensions from school. "The One of his teachers said, 'This is not a behavioral problem. Your son is mentally ill.' We took him for a psychiatric evaluation, and he was right. That was the day the healing began. What we do for our son is to be grateful to God for his help."

DEAR ANN: My heart went out to the parent with the out-of-control son because I have walked in their shoes. I was willing to bet that their boy is on crystal methamphetamine. Crystal meth is the most wicked drug of all. Formerly call the users "the ivy class."

DEAR ANN: The boy who punches holes in the walls is on crystal meth. I recognize the symptoms because our son was on it at age 14.

GO for the GOLD

MODEL SEARCH

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1ST • 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. • FREE

Scottsdale Mall Center Court Stage

Scottsdale Mall invites you to participate in its Fun Model Search '96! Over 30 models from the community will be selected at the auditions to appear on-stage in our upcoming high performance Back-to-School fashion shows on August 10th.

The fashion show, "Go for the Gold!", will highlight all of the exciting back to school looks to hit the books with world class style.

We will be searching for models of ALL ages... Kindergarten through College. No prior experience necessary, just a desire to have a lot of fun!

Participation is FREE - and the show will be presented by professional fashion show producers. Come early to the auditions - a limited number of participants will be selected. "Model Search '96" ... get ready for record setting family fun!

Pre-registration information, is available at the Customer Service Center located in the Management Office on the upper level.

Ireland and Miami Roads, South Bend. Take the Ironwood or Michigan Exit off the US 20 Bypass. Information Call: (219) 299-7300

Shopping here is a back to school event!

SCOTTSDALE MALL