

**SEASONAL AGORAPHOBE BUCKS UP FOR THE CHEYENNE
FRONTIER DAYS
08/10/99**

Some years and seasons are more notable than others are because of aberrant weather or events.

This summer, more than any recent one I can recall, is noted for hot, humid weather and events that attract record crowds. The two seem to go together. Both are deterrents to me and to be avoided at all costs.

The planned and orchestrated riot known as Rome's Woodstock is one of the area's most notable. I cannot think of a more unpleasant situation, other than perhaps the poor soul in the Bosnian refugee camps. Even they were not assaulted with the unintelligible cacophony represented as music. If you accept even half of the spin in the media on the success or failure of the venture, there are many who will not be as eager to attend another one.

Harborfest in nearby Oswego was held on the same weekend and stands in stark contrast to the above mentioned. Although nowhere near as well attended, it was certainly better received and assured of being repeated. Cool lake breezes created an atmosphere more conducive to public participation. The music, deportment of the attendees and the general format made it a true family affair, something that even the most ardent Woodstock supporter couldn't claim for that event.

Both, however, are to be avoided by a guy who shuns the Busy Corner in Old Forge like the plague! I am sorry to say I hate venturing uptown in the summer, but it's a state that is being shared by many old time locals.

I plan every trip with the same methodical preparation I would a trip tot he innards of the Big Apple. This sounds ridiculous to all who read it whose everyday activities are subject to much greater stress. It comes natural to a woods rat whose motto is "The further the trip the bigger the disappointment."

I grudgingly admit there are many aspects of the summer season I do enjoy. One is annual fireworks display on July 4. We join a group of friends who annually reserve two rooms on the lower level of the Forge Motel from which we view the show. Arriving early via the back streets, parking is a cinch. A pleasant evening is spent visiting with

friends we have not seen in the better part of the year. Lingering until the crush is over, departure goes smoothly thanks to the excellent work of the local and state police and the sheriff's office.

In spite of the seasonal congestion, local traffic does move well due in large part to the consideration of other drivers. Cross traffic is fairly reasonable, thanks to the courtesy of many and the same is true in gaining access to the main street.

I personally thank those who have accommodated me and urge all to join them in helping others. Frequent replacement of guide rails on Route 28 by the DOT crews is a reminder we have too many dangerous drivers on the main roads.

The New York State Fair in Syracuse and the Woodmen's Field Days in Boonville are both crowd scenes that I find worth the aggravation and heat. One mega attraction I found most interesting, not so much for its format as its accessibility to the parking and grounds, was Disney World in Florida. We have been there twice and its ability to safely and pleasantly oblige thousands of customers is remarkable.

There are only two other major events that might possibly intrigue me enough to endure the heat and crows. They are the Calgary Stampede and Cheyenne Frontier Days. To make a long story short, I guess if the interest is there the will to endure is, too. Even in the case of Woodstock.