

Times Remembered
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away and enjoy themselves. We have been cooped up for 12-14 months this past year because of the COVID19 and we are ready to break loose.

Travel is up, considerably expensive; whether it's by air or land. Condos, motels and cabins have doubled in price on most of the ones I've checked. But Tara and I split the cost which makes it cheaper.

When I was a little girl, if I could have gone to the beach I'd been extremely happy. You just didn't take vacations when you lived on a farm. Too much work to be done daily. I do get excited to go to the beach.

I enjoy the beach for about 3 days and then I'm ready to do something else, like antiquing, or going to a car show and deep sea fishing. I like the rides at amusement parks, too. I enjoy eating at all the seafood restaurants as well.

My favorite beach is Gulf Shores. It used to be Myrtle Beach, but I been there so many times I'm tired of it; it is definitely too crowded. But there is

a lot to do.

The kids usually sleep till about 9:00 and have breakfast on the patio. Bob and I are already up and had our coffee; we get up about 7:00 a.m. and walk on the beach and look for sea shells and rocks. For lunch we have turkey and bologna sandwiches, or peanut butter/banana sandwich, chips and some fruit and maybe a cookie if we can get past Tara with it. She's a health food nut. At night we go to a seafood restaurant, or steak place and enjoy a regular meal. Italian food is high on the list too.

We really like Lambert's Restaurant; it's country style and they throw rolls to you while you are eating; it's funny and the food is delicious. It's located not far from Gulf Shores.

By 10:00 a.m. we are on the beach, we have rented our chairs, took a dip in the ocean and have applied our suntan lotion. This starts the "laying out process," for Tara and myself. Of course I don't lie still for very long; maybe thirty minutes. Then I'm head-

ed to the water.

Tara, Steve and Colton like to pass football on the beach and ride the waves in the ocean. I don't swim that well so I don't go out too far in the water. Bob likes to be where he can fish, and he catches a few every now and then.

This year, we have been unable to find a place to stay at Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, or Myrtle Beach but we have found rooms at Navarre Beach, Florida. They look nice, new and clean, but they make them look good on the internet. I said that I wasn't staying in another motel again; but this one is brand new and has passed Tara's inspection thus far. She is very particular. I just hope it's as good as it looks.

By Friday I'm ready to come home; it seems the trip is longer on the way back. But we arrive home all pretty and tanned; and a little red too. Glad to be home, My Dad used to say, "There's no place like home." As I get older I believe he's was right!

It's Vacation Time

It's vacation time. Schools are out, and it seems everyone is ready to get

Kentucky Steam invites public to open house



Kentucky Steam Heritage Corporation will open its doors to the public next weekend to showcase the progress being made on the group's burgeoning tourism project in Estill County.

On June 12, the Irvine-based non-profit will host an open house event at its campus at the former CSX railroad yard in Ravenna, where the group is actively restoring a historic steam

locomotive to operational condition. Visitors will be given walking tours at noon and 3 p.m. that Saturday of Kentucky Steam's grounds and shop areas where the steam locomotive, former Chesapeake and Ohio Railway No. 2716, is being rebuilt and restored. Those taking the tour will even be given the opportunity to climb aboard the nearly-80-year-old locomotive, which was brought to Estill County in summer 2019.

The 2716 will eventually be the centerpiece of Kentucky Steam's multi-purpose campus, named "The Yard," which will also

include an open-air concert venue, a restaurant and a brewery. Kentucky Steam Heritage Corporation President Chris Campbell says the open house is a good opportunity for the public to see the organization's progress firsthand.

"We want people to come in and get reacquainted with this project," Campbell said. "Open house events like this are new to us again after the difficult times we've experienced over the last year and a half, so that newness brings some excitement with it, and it's exciting to know that the public will

once again have the opportunity to see, up close, the results of the hard work being performed by our volunteers."

Site work at "The Yard" is already underway and is set to accelerate this summer thanks to a sizable grant recently awarded to Kentucky Steam by the federal government. In early May, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded a grant through its Brownfields Program worth \$500,000 to Kentucky Steam for site cleanup of the former railroad yard in preparation of the construction

of the "Hardy Pavilion at the Yard," which will host outdoor concerts, farmers markets and other events. The grant is the second set of funds awarded to Kentucky Steam through EPA's Brownfields Program.

On Sept. 11th, Kentucky Steam will also be partnering with the Estill Development Alliance and the City of Ravenna to host the Ravenna Railroad Festival on its campus. The festival was canceled in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. More details about the festival will be released later this summer.

"The entire purpose of

Kentucky Steam is to showcase the history of not only the railroads that crisscrossed Appalachian Kentucky, but also the people that kept those railroads moving," Campbell says. "A lot of folks that we hope eventually pass through these shop doors or walk across the development could likely trace their lineage back to someone who helped move some of the millions of tons of coal and freight that passed across this very soil for a century."

For more information, visit www.kentuckysteam.org.

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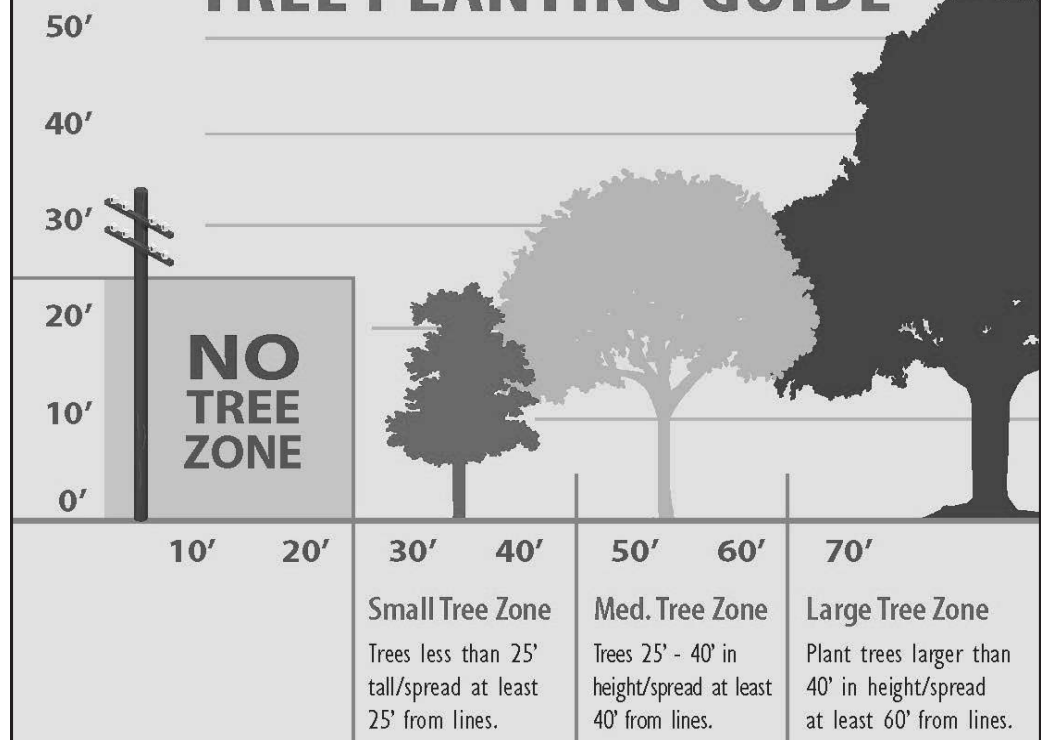
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