

Travels with Bob & Sandy

INDOOR DINING? LET'S TRAVEL

By Bob & Sandy Nesoff

Being housebound for more than six months is more like house arrest. But even convicted criminals can look forward to parole. Our time is here.

While Long Island and New Jersey have permitted indoor dining with some restrictions, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio has opted to keep his Draconian regulations in place while his residents go elsewhere for relaxation and places to spend the money they've saved by not going anywhere since March.

Some beaches will remain open until the end of the month, but you can never tell how crowded they'll be. So, opt for diversions and relaxation within, say a little over two hours from New York and North Jersey. There's more to do than you might realize.

Just a hair under two hours up



the New York Thruway to Exit 19 and then onto Rt. 28 West for a shade under 20 miles brings you to Mt. Tremper and the Emerson Resort and Spa. While Rt. 28 is often a busy roadway, Emerson is set far enough back that traffic noise never penetrates.

The fall foliage season will soon begin to tint the forest

leaves and offer a symphony of color offering visitors one of nature's most spectacular shows. Why schlep more than four hours to Vermont when you can enjoy the same show practically in your own backyard?

Emerson's 20-acre property affords guests the opportunity to quietly walk wooded trails. The resort just launched its Ashokan Rail Trail Self-Guided Birding Booklet that has some two miles of lands by the Ashokan Reservoir. Until recently, these lands had been closed to the public for more than a century.

Emerson is closed on Tuesday and Wednesday to give the staff an opportunity to deep clean the property for the safety of its guests. Check with the resort for specials such as the one offering a third night free when you book three nights. The special is valid until the end of November.

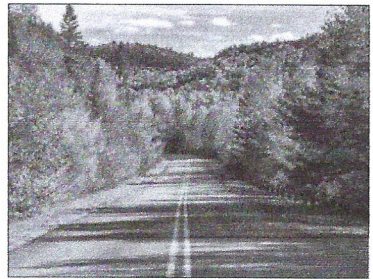
The luxury boutique resort boasts 53 rooms, in-resort dining and what they claim to be the world's largest kaleidoscope. It could be. It looks like a huge farm silo.

An easy drive from Mt. Tremper are the quaint towns of Margaretville, Arkville, Delhi and more. There are antique shops, restaurants peopled by locals such as Summerfields in Margaretville. Come off Rt. 28 into the center of town, such as it is, and at the only traffic light make a left. Summerfields is a couple of blocks on the left.

Unless the weather is inclem-

ent, scratch the indoor dining and opt for outdoor seating with the flowing East Branch of the Delaware River babbling alongside. The food may not be gourmet, but it is plentiful, tasty and served by a friendly staff. You may be the only outsider there, but you will never feel out of place.

Back on Rt. 28 west toward Arkville and hop on the Delaware and Ulster Railroad that winds its way along the river, across local roads and through some of the quaint towns in the area. The vintage puffer belly train provides the opportuni-



ty for memorable photos so whatever you do, don't forget a camera. Your camera will be the most modern thing on the train.

Make some time to go into the old train station and visit the gift shop. Items there make great gifts and memories to take home.

Between Emerson Place and Margaretville is the Belleayre Mountain ski area. No skiing in this weather but a drive to the top of the mountain will produce some spectacular views that on a clear day lets you see until tomorrow. Check and see if the ski lifts are working. If so, leave the car at the base and take the gentle ride to the summit.

If you are staying for a couple of days head over to nearby Hunter Mountain, one of the most popular ski areas. Try out the amazing zip line that will whisk you high above a valley at speeds normally only meant for a car on the highway. There are several zip line options from mild to "Oh My God!"

Day trip or extended stay, give this Catskill area a try.

Barely Spotted: Shining Through



Sometimes it's pretty easy to spot a Rockaway Times t-shirt. The bright coral and the neon green can be seen for miles but it took a careful eye to spot The RT tee on Father Jim Cunningham of St. Francis de Sales. The long white vestment has a pinkish hue as the RT shines underneath as Father Jim chats with parishioners after Mass on the beach. We're now seriously thinking of adding RT vestments to our fashion line.

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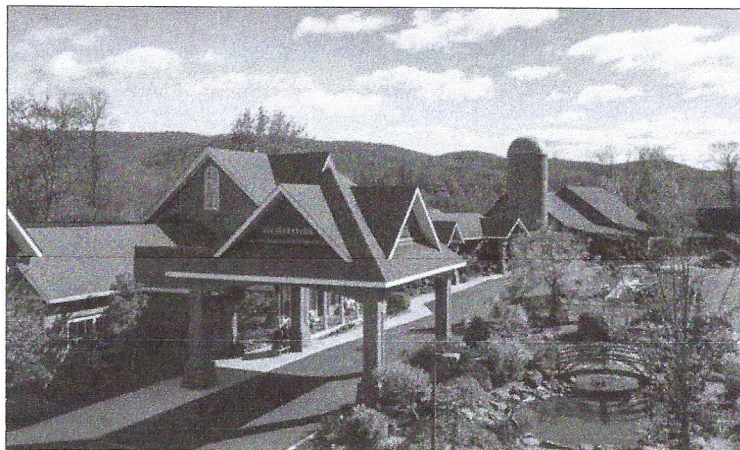
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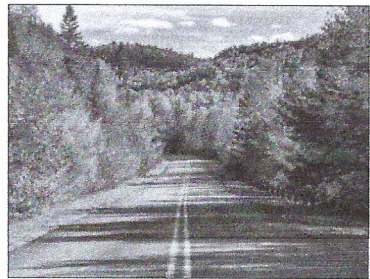
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