

DAY TRIPPIN'

Affordable Vacationing Near Home

By Susan E. Hohman

Need to get away, but you just don't have enough time off from work, nor the necessary funds to take a "real" vacation? The Ozarks region is a destination in itself, and there are enough fun activities available within a short driving distance to warrant taking some "day trips," that don't play havoc with your budget! Relaxing scenery, buildings of historical significance and breathtaking beauty are all within a day's drive of Dixon, Missouri.

It isn't even necessary to go as far as Branson to enjoy a family-centered night of entertainment. The Barn, located not far from Dixon's city limits, from time to time offers great shows and dinner combos for a reasonable price. Culture, in the form of bluegrass concerts by local groups at various venues and historically significant items such as those found at the Pulaski County Museum or a tour down "Historic Route 66" are bonuses to living here. For those craving a little mild action, Kokomo Joe's Family Fun Center in Rolla, MO offers mini-golf, a driving range, batting cages, and go-carts! They also provide the "perfect place for your

next birthday party," as touted on their website.

Maramec Spring Park, St. James, Missouri, can be accessed in less than an hour's drive east from Dixon. Containing 1,860 acres of forests and fields, and a 200-acre public use area, Maramec's distinct beauty can be enjoyed by visitors who wish to feed the fish, picnic, view wildlife, camp, play, or even fish in the clear stream of the Maramec River that flows through the park. In addition, a small store and café are located on the grounds.

Similarly, more family fun of all sorts is also a short journey northwest from here. After about a forty-five minute drive, boating, fishing, swimming, entertainment, and relaxing at the Lake of the Ozarks is awaiting those who desire water-related fun and games. Of course, Boiling Spring Campground, located about nine-and-a-half miles west from the town of Dixon, OR east from the St. Robert city limits, offers plenty of aquatic activities also, including float trips.

Also featuring lots of H2O fun and appealing to the younger crowd is the new water park in the city of St. Robert – the

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