

"VACATIONITIS"

... Bill Saver



The sky was blue, the sun was shining and the temperature was hovering in the middle seventies. All day long vacation thoughts had been flitting in and out of my mind as I struggled through eight hours at the office.

Riding home on the "L" that evening, visions of beautiful mountains and restful rivers, streams, lakes and beaches in faraway places gave me a complete case of "vacationitis."

Dashing into the house, I greeted my ever-loving wife, Kitty, with, "What do you think of a trip to California on our vacation this year? The 'old bug' has really got me. I'm just itching to get going somewhere!"

After glancing at the stew simmering on the stove, and then to the papers she had on the table in front of her, Kitty replied, "Well, Mr. Bill Saver, from the looks of our budget, there just won't be enough money for an expensive vacation trip this year!"

As my face dropped a foot, Kitty smiled sweetly and said, "You don't have to look like you've lost your last friend! I've been going through that 'See Chicago by CTA' folder you brought home the other day, and, do you know, there are just oodles of interesting places in and around the city we have never seen even though we've lived here all our lives? Why, people come from all over the world to see these things in Chicago, right under our noses! And that's not all," she started to say when she was interrupted by Jack, our always-hungry, teen-age son, who stuck his head in the kitchen with a plaintive, "Is supper almost ready? I'm starved!"

"If you're in such a hurry to eat," retorted Kitty, "just stick around and set the table for me and we'll all eat faster." As Jack whirled on his heel, she continued, "Come on, now. I mean it. You're big enough to lend a helping hand around here, too, you know."

As Jack grudgingly set about his task, Kitty turned back to me.

"I never really realized how interesting Chicago is 'til I looked through that 'See Chicago' folder," she said. "In there it lists all kinds of places and tells how to get to them by CTA.

There's Riverview park, which Jack and Penny always get a big kick out of, and then, of course, we can spend a few pleasant afternoons watching the Cubs and Sox play ball. There's lots of other things to do, too," Kitty continued. "I've just about got it all figured out and I'm going to draw up a plan for a pleasant, inexpensive, stay-at-home vacation this year.

"We can go to the zoos at Lincoln Park and at Brookfield, visit the conservatories at Garfield and Lincoln Parks, and go swimming at any of a number of beaches."

Picking up the folder, she elaborated, "Then we can work in some tours of buildings like the Board of Trade, Tribune Tower, Wrigley Building and the Merchandise Mart. Besides that, we'll have a few picnics in the forest preserves or parks where you can play golf. Other places we can have a good time are at the several museums listed in the city. And a trip to the largest stock yards in the world would be something we'd never forget."

As Kitty rambled on, my vacation ideas went slowly drifting out the window and I began to feel almost as enthusiastic about staying at home as she did, particularly as I did some quick mental calculations and realized how much money would be saved.

"You're right," I broke in, "the grass always looks greener in the other pasture, but you've opened my eyes. Let's complete our plans and we'll have one of the best and cheapest vacations we've ever had!"

"It seems to me (it was my turn to talk now) a lot of other people around Chicago could really benefit by this idea, too. Most of the places listed in this folder are easily reached by CTA bus, streetcar or elevated-subway lines, which is another big saving!"

"Well, it looks like we're all set for our vacation," Kitty remarked, "so let's eat before the kids starve to death!"



See Chicago by **CTA**

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Bill Saver,

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