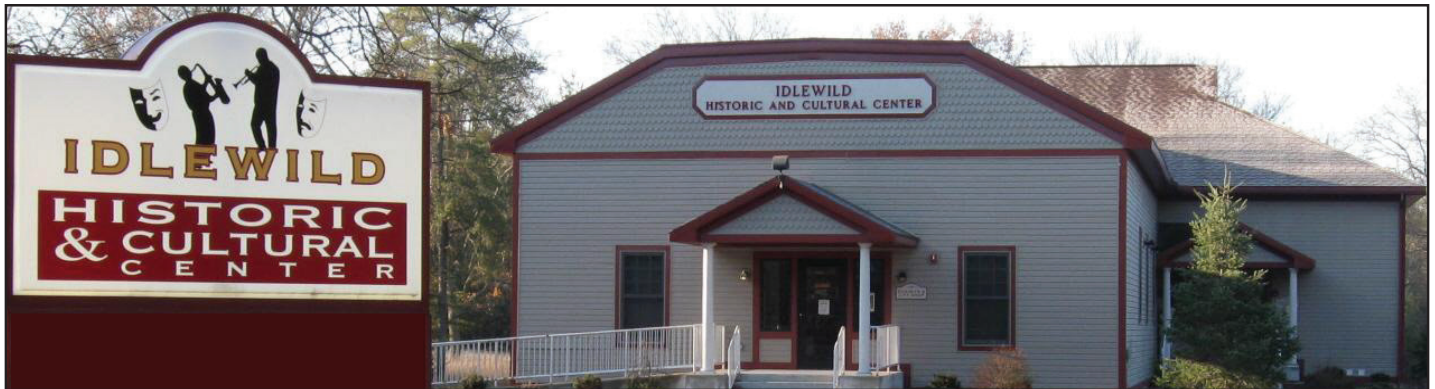


Friends of



IDLEWILD

Historic & Cultural Center



Established in 2003, the Idlewild Historic and Cultural Center provides a location where the many people who are fascinated by the historic community can learn more about what makes Idlewild an important piece of American history.

Experience a piece of history

Contributions
from members
ensure the
story lives on

There's a sign that welcomes people to the historic community of Idlewild.

If they've seen the documentaries or read the stories, they know that this where nightclubs once welcomed some of the most

influential musicians of the 20th Century.

They also know that, before the Civil Rights Act of 1964, this resort community in the woods of northern Michigan was one of the few places in the U.S. where

African Americans could simultaneously escape city life and segregation. They could freely enjoy the sparkle of starlight, the shimmer of the lakes and the right to own property.

What's Inside:

- **IDLEWILD ON THE MOVE:** "Welcome to Idlewild: The Black Eden of Michigan" Traveling Exhibit visits Traverse City's Denny's Museum
- **REMEMBERING THE MUSIC:** Now legendary performers graced the stages of Idlewild nightclubs
- **ON DISPLAY:** Visitors peruse

cases filled with memorabilia and view local artwork

- **PERMANENT EXHIBITS:** "Welcome to Idlewild: The Black Eden of Michigan" and the U.S. Forest Service display about the African American Civilian Conservation Corps camps tell the whole story of Idlewild
- **BECOME A FRIEND:** Support the Idlewild Historic & Cultural Center

Visit us This
Summer!

The Idlewild Historic & Cultural
Center is open:

Saturdays from 10 a.m.
to 5 p.m.

Special arrangements can be
made by calling (231) 757-3785.

Visit us: 7025 Broadway Ave., Idlewild, MI 49642

www.historicidlewild.org



Duke Ellington



Will Mastin Trio



Louis Armstrong

When segregation barred them from other venues ... There was no greater place than Idlewild

It wasn't until 1944 that Sammy Davis Jr., his father and their close friend, Will Mastin, became the first black performers to play a club on the Strip in Las Vegas. It was another 10 years before they were allowed to stay in one of the hotels or patronize one of the casinos.

It was this kind of pervasive racism across the U.S. that led to the organization of the "Chitlin' Circuit," a series of bars, nightclubs and theaters that welcomed African American performers.

Idlewild became a favorite stop for performers on the Circuit for the same reason it was enjoyed by families. They had the opportunity to relax in the wonders of nature, swim in pristine lakes, ride horses and breathe fresh air.

Jim Crow didn't exist in Idlewild. It was one of the first places in the country to be truly integrated and people traveled from all over to catch the shows. Audiences were equally made up of whites and blacks, sitting

side by side.

Among the now legendary performers who graced the stages in Idlewild were: Louis Armstrong, James Brown, Jerry Butler, Cab Calloway, Bill Cosby, Sammy Davis Jr., Duke Ellington, The Four Tops, Aretha Franklin, Etta James, B.B. King, Della Reese, The Spinners, The Temptations, T-Bone Walker, Thomas "Fats" Waller, Dinah Washington, Jackie Wilson and Stevie Wonder.

A portion of the exhibit "Welcome to Idlewild: The Black Eden of Michigan" (pictured at right) is

dedicated to the entertainers who played Idlewild and the nightclubs that hosted them. Idlewild came to be known as "The Summer Apollo of Michigan," a reference to the historic theater in Harlem. One of these clubs, The Flamingo Club (pictured bottom left), is now shuttered but in the 1930s, '40s and '50s, it was one of two nightclubs that drew some of the most influential black entertainers of the time. In this picture from the Archives of Michigan, The Paradise Club (below left) is shown before it burned down.



The Idlewild Historic & Cultural Center will feature this exhibit with presentations by Dr. Ronald J. Stephens on Saturdays in the summers of 2023 and 2024.

IDLEWILD HISTORY

Idlewild has a rich history but is frequently overlooked in most traditional historic accounts. Idlewild was a thriving entertainment and tourist hot spot in the 1950's and 60's, attracting 25,000 visitors annually. Some of the biggest stars at the time performed at the clubs in Idlewild. There were performances with show girls, jazz dancers, and large orchestras.

ENTERTAINMENT IN HISTORIC IDLEWILD

Dr. Ronald Stephens
Purdue University

DR. STEPHENS

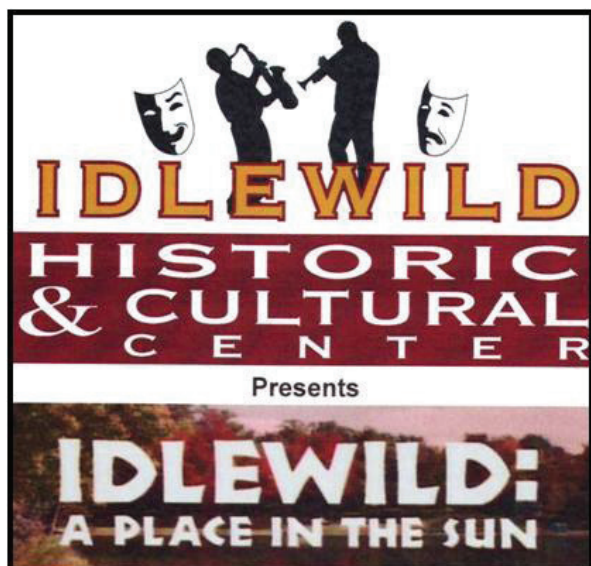
Dr. Ronald J. Stephens is Professor of African American Studies and Director of the African American Studies and Research Center in the School of Interdisciplinary Studies at Purdue University.



DISCOVER NEW INFORMATION ABOUT THE HISTORY AND PERFORMANCES OF BLACK ARTISTS AND ENTERTAINMENT AT THE PARADISE CLUB IN IDLEWILD, MICHIGAN, AROUND THE NATION, AND GLOBALLY DURING THE 50'S AND 60'S.

DVD ORDER FORM

Producer Ted Talbert's 1995 documentary, "**Idlewild: A Place in the Sun**," is now available on DVD. *All proceeds from the sales will benefit the Idlewild Historic & Cultural Center.*

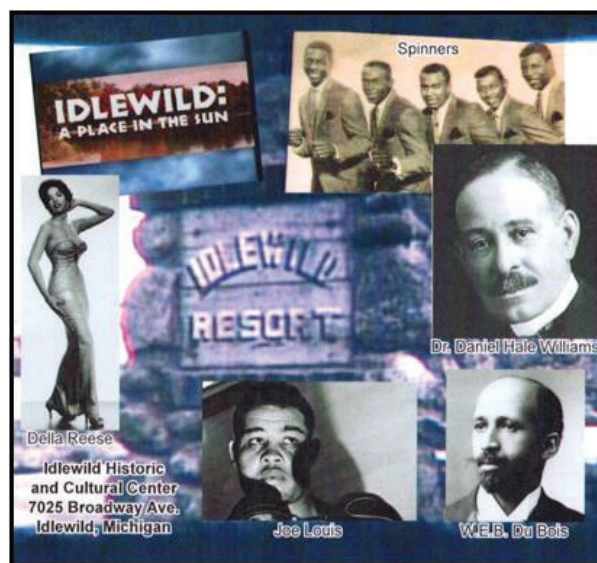


DVD available for **\$15** in the Idlewild Historic & Cultural Center gift shop (7025 Broadway, Idlewild, MI) open in the summer (Memorial Day thru Labor Day) on Saturdays only, 10am-5pm.

MAIL ORDER – \$20

(includes shipping)

Send order form below with payment to Idlewild Historic & Cultural Center, c/o FiveCAP, Inc., PO Box 37, Scottville, MI 49454.



"IDLEWILD: A PLACE IN THE SUN" DVD ORDER FORM

Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Number of copies of DVD (\$20.00 each): _____

_____ x \$20.00 ea. = _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

(Check or Money Order)

Please make checks or money order payable to Idlewild Historic & Cultural Center.

Mail order form with payment to IHCC, c/o FiveCAP, Inc., PO Box 37, Scottville, MI 49454.

PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE IDLEWILD HISTORIC & CULTURAL CENTER.

Become a Friend of



IDLEWILD

Historic & Cultural Center

Be a part of history

By becoming a member of the Friends of Idlewild Historic & Cultural Center, you will have the heartfelt satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to support the story of Idlewild for future generations.

One hundred years after it was founded, Idlewild is still captivating people, just as its beauty captivated the first vacationers and the legendary entertainers who graced the stages here captivated their audiences. One hundred years from now, we believe that fascination will still exist.

Idlewild represents a time in our collective story when racism ruled. Relief from the reaches of Jim Crow existed in this small resort community in Lake County, Michigan, which was one of the first truly integrated places in the whole country.

People are drawn to Idlewild and it is our mission to give them a place to go. Operated by FiveCAP, Inc., the IHCC provides an end-destination attraction in this historic community so people from all over the world can experience a piece of American history.

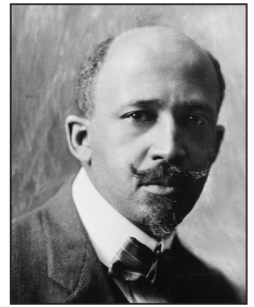
Your annual membership fee of \$20 can help us tell the incredible story of Idlewild. Proceeds from the Friends of Idlewild Historic & Cultural Center membership drive go to support the operations of the center.

As a Friend of the Idlewild Historic & Cultural Center, you will receive an annual newsletter, updating you on the activities at the IHCC. But more importantly, you will become a part of this incredible story by helping to maintain the place where it will always be told.

Welcome to Idlewild, the Black Eden of Michigan!



“For sheer physical beauty — for sheen of water and golden air, for nobleness of tree and flower of shrub, for shining river and song of bird and the low, moving whisper of sun, moon and star, it is the beautifullest stretch I have seen for twenty years; and then to that add fellowship — sweet, strong women and keen-witted men from Canada and Texas, California and New York, Ohio, Missouri and Illinois — all sons and grand-children of Ethiopia, all with the wide leisure of rest and play — can you imagine a more marvelous thing than Idlewild?”



W. E. B. Du Bois
The Crisis, 1921



Idlewild Lake viewed from Williams Island

IHCC MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____

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PHONE: () _____

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Please mail this form and your payment to:

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