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ROOM TO ROAM: New York isn't crowded on Sunday.

The Big Apple: It's a Sunday temptation

By CHESTER E. SMOLSKI

Are your Sundays boring? Have you seen all of the sights within 50 miles of Providence? Then why not for a change take a day trip to New York City?

Too far, you say? Not so. It's simply a matter of overcoming how we perceive distances in this small, crowded state of Rhode Island. Too many of us think only in terms of a Sunday afternoon drive in which we compete with everyone else on a 100-mile outing and are subjected to crowding, waiting in lines, difficult driving and frustration.

The key to seeing different places is to travel when few others do. New York, that Mecca of entertainment, is only a 3½-hour drive from Providence, if one leaves in the quiet of an early Sunday morning.

There are relatively few cars in the city on Sunday (on your arrival you will notice that all of the cars are leaving the city) and it is almost a delight to drive in Manhattan. The availability of free and adequate parking, together with a synchronized traffic light system which permits one to travel 50 blocks uninterrupted by red lights, allows one to move about the city faster than by public transportation, which is not the case on weekdays.

A cup of coffee and a glass of juice before the 6 A.M. departure will prepare you for an easy drive to the Upper West Side of Manhattan using the Henry Hudson Parkway south from the George Washington Bridge.

The Bagel Nosh at 69th Street and Broadway will provide a more substantial and reasonably priced breakfast of hot bagels, lox, cream cheese and coffee. Brunches are also served at several nearby restaurants.

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AT BREAKFAST IT IS wise to get a copy of the *New York Times* (50 cents cheaper than in Providence) to find a listing of events scheduled for the day. Or, pick up the *Friday Times* with its listing of scheduled weekend events and plan one's day in the city before arrival.

Consider what we were able to do on a recent Sunday in the city.

After breakfast we drove to Lower Manhattan to take advantage of that great bargain called the Staten Island Ferry. For 25 cents one gets a 40-minute trip with a view of the Statue of Liberty, the Ver-

razano Bridge and the most impressive Manhattan skyline.

While in this part of Manhattan we stopped to see an exhibit of art and sculpture at the U.S. Customs House. A free modern dance performance was scheduled there for later in the day but rather than wait the rest of the family decided to see the current exhibits at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. I drove to Park Avenue and Harlem for some photographs, and then on for quick stops at the Jewish Museum and the Guggenheim on Fifth Avenue, just blocks away from the Met.

I picked up the family at the museum and we returned for the dance concert at the U.S. Customs House, then we took a brief ride and walk through the Lower East Side to buy pickles, sauerkraut and horseradish at that famous Hester Street landmark, Guss Pickle Produce Company.

Continuing in this part of Manhattan we decided to sample some of the well known blintzes and borscht at Ratner's on Delancey Street.

Then we went on to Central Park for a free performance of *The Pirates of Penzance*, the well-known Gilbert and Sullivan work, by The Light Opera of Manhattan Company.

For a final bit of entertainment and a change of pace, it was on to the outdoor Damrosch Park at Lincoln Center where the Duke Ellington orchestra played some of the sweetest sounds to be heard in a ten block radius — for free.

We called it a day shortly before midnight, with a final stop on 79th Street and Broadway at the Bagel Shop, which never closes, for some hot bagels to munch on the way home.

The cost for a day of fun was small — \$3.60 in car tolls, 18 gallons of gasoline used and a \$4 contribution at the museum.

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