

## THE KALAMAZOO PROMISE

The pictured peacock resides in a park across from City Hall in Kalamazoo, MI. We toured Kalamazoo, courtesy of Bonnie's friend, Margene Fuller. This is a city of about 177,000 and they are currently refurbishing the downtown area to preserve the old buildings in the flavor of the past.

One of the most fascinating things happening here is the "Promise".

A group of anonymous donors created a foundation to provide money for scholarships for any student in the Kalamazoo school district who graduates from school maintaining a minimum C average!



The 100% scholarship is worth about \$40,000 and can be used in any Michigan college. Attending school, K thru 12 in Kalamazoo begets 100%, residing and starting later will get a percentage less. The program is funded presently for 13 years, pending more contributions.

As people from other areas rush to establish residence in the school district, there is a proliferation of people selling their homes at the higher demand prices. Signs advertise the homes as "Promise qualified". Because this program guarantees any student a free college education, with a minimum C average, it is expected that the future pool of college educated employees will dramatically increase.

After visiting for 4 days, we moved on. We first stopped at an RV repair shop. In Pennsylvania, at an RV park we discovered a remarkable invention to keep one from driving off with your TV antenna extended. It is a simple tree branch. When it determines that your antenna is up, it grabs it and tears it off, and hence you don't look bad driving down the road.

Expecting a \$200 replacement, we were delighted the mechanic only replaced an arm and a gear for \$55. We continued on to Indianapolis, IN

Dave & Bonnie

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