

# Glimpse a bit of Michigan history from your canoe

Canoeists who travel the Huron River and the River Raisin from their headquarters to the marshlands of Lake Erie pass through a panorama of scenery that covers two centuries.

The major part of the Huron's nearly 128-mile trek from its source at Big Lake in northern Oakland County is through primitive countryside reminiscent of how Southeast Michigan looked in the 1800s.

But the Huron also carries canoeists into the 20th century hustle and bustle of Ann Arbor. Ypsilanti and smaller communities where cars and trucks can be heard whooshing by on some of Michigan's super-highways.

through farmland, rural villages and former mill towns until it reaches Lake Erie in sight of the smoke stacks of the Detroit Edison power plant at highly industrialized Monroe.

The portion of the Raisin recommended for canoeing is a 42-mile stretch in Leapee County that starts at Canton, once the site of grain and woolen mills, and ends at Deerfield, named for the numerous deer found in the area when the community was settled in the early 1800s.

The two-day trip takes canoeists through Tecumseh, named for the great Shawnee chief, the outskirts of Adrian, home of Adrian College, and Blissfield where city parks line both sides of the river.

There are no liveries so the Automobile Club of Michigan advises that you bring your own canoe if you want to follow the River Raisin, or drive 34.56 which parallels the river for several miles.

THE 100 MILES of the Huron River deemed suitable for canoeing start at Proud Lake in Oakland County and traverse Livingston, Wayne, Washtenaw and Monroe counties before reaching Lake Erie. The trip takes seven to 10 days, and there are four campgrounds especially designated for canoeists.

Canoeists who take the two-day trip on the Raisin must rely on the graciousness of private landowners if they wish to camp

for the night, but the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority has provided campsites for those who follow the Huron. These are at Kensington Metropark, the Island Lake Recreation Area and the Hudson Mills and Lower Huron metroparks.

A Huron River Canoeing Map from the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority provides all the information needed to plan a trip lasting anywhere from a few hours to two weeks.

It lists the seven canoe liveries along the river, including Heaver's in Milford. In winter, Heaver's offers combination canoe and cross-country skiing trips for experienced outdoorsmen.

THERE ARE 13 dams on the Huron and a short stretch of white water near Deht, just outside of Ann Arbor, which must be portaged. Some daredevil canoeists try to shoot the picturesque rapids when the water is high enough. It is not recommended, however.

Except for an occasional highway bridge, the stretch between Proud Lake and Milford is unchanged from a century ago and on weekdays, when there are few canoeists out, deer, raccoon and other animals can be seen at the water's edge.

Where the river empties into Lake Erie at the Pre-Moultrie State Game Area, waterfowl abound and canoeists sometimes catch a glimpse of herons and egrets in the marshlands.

PROBABLY ONE of the most popular sections of the Huron—because of its proximity to the University of Michigan campus—is along Huron River Drive at Ann Arbor. Student' canoes often are seen gliding through water lilies and past tree-lined banks.

Motorists who follow Huron River Drive will catch a glimpse of the rapids at Deht, where there is a beautiful picnic grove, and see fishermen patiently awaiting a yank at the of their line.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has been engaged in an extensive fish stocking program for the Huron, with plantings of rainbow, brown trout, coho salmon and other game fish in 1975 and again this year.

## Seat belts are better than bags

Mandatory air bag restraints in automobiles have not yet been shown as effective as the lap-torso systems in current use, according to the director of the University of Michigan Highway Safety Research Institute.

No fully passive system has been shown to be as effective as the lap-torso system, says Robert H. HESS, institute director. There are only limited data on actual highway crashes for the most widely tested passive system, these data are insufficient to establish the effectiveness of the air bag in a highway crash.

Noting that crashes studied by the researchers have involved only limited production systems of the air bag restraints, HESS warns that we do not know how reliably a mass-produced system will work or for how long.

ONGOING CONTINUED study of the passive restraint systems, HESS says the reason researchers consider the effectiveness of the air bag as questionable is that there have not been enough crashes to allow adequate scientific evaluation.

HESS, also professor of applied mechanics and engineering sciences at UM, says the UM Highway Safety Research Institute has investigated more than 2,000 crashes involving occupants using belt restraint systems and has analyzed many other such crashes.

At the request of the U.S. Department of Transportation, the UM institute has also investigated some 78 air bag crashes—about one-half the total investigated by research teams.

Based on this research, HESS says, "overwhelming evidence from real-world crashes establishes that lap-torso restraint systems are very effective in reducing serious and fatal injury."

A conservative estimate, says the researcher, is that the use of lap-torso belt systems reduces the chance of serious injury by at least 50 per cent and fatal injury by more than 50 per cent.

HESS WARNS that there is likely to be adverse public reaction to either mandatory passive restraints or mandatory usage laws.

Those not using belts apparently do not see the benefits and are likely to object to paying more for passive systems. Those conscientious individuals who now use lap-torso belt systems are likely to object because of their belief that the passive systems will not provide the protection they now have, he said.

Urging increased use of seat belts by the public, HESS notes:

The research on why the public does not use belts is very limited. We know the use rate is low, but we do not know why. We also do not know why public education campaigns to increase belt use have not been effective. Thus, there is not a scientific basis for the argument that belt usage cannot be increased.

HESS RECOMMENDS the following actions by the federal government:

Continued development of both active and passive restraint systems should be encouraged. Dynamic performance standards should be established for active restraint systems, as they have been for passive systems.

Adequate tests of the air bag system should be conducted. "While we do not believe the evidence is sufficient to warrant mandating passive restraints, it is sufficient to require further testing," says HESS.

The government should take a position of leadership to increase use of available lap-torso belt systems. One goal, he said, would be to develop a broad base of public understanding that would support mandatory usage laws or mandating of passive restraints of proven effectiveness in the future.

... just beautiful things for your home

E.H.S. Professional Interior Design

Michigan's largest display of Drexel/Heritage

RAY INTERIORS  
14400 E. Grand Ave. Dearborn, Mich. 48124  
23306 BLOOMFIELD FARMINGTON Phone 476-7272

## Indians are OCC topic

A new anthropology course featuring the culture of the American Indian will be offered at the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College during the fall semester which begins Sept. 10. "Profiles of Ethnology" will meet on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 12-30 p.m.

According to course instructor David Carpenter, a member of the American Anthropology Association, the American Indians are known more by fiction than by fact.

"Even Indians confuse images with reality. For example, the Indian costume has

become the ceremonial dress of the Plains tribes rather than the traditional dress of their own tribes," said Carpenter.

One of the most consistently believed myths concerns the existence of a Happy Hunting Ground for all tribes. That myth not only contradicts the religious beliefs of many tribes but demonstrates a lack of understanding about the Indian's way of living. Most Indians were farmers.

Carpenter will use films to study the Indians. Questions about the class can be directed to Prof. Carpenter at 478-9400, ext. 417.

**KANINE CORNERS**

**Dog Grooming All Breeds**  
**Live Exotic Animals**

- TARANTULA SPIDERS
- BABY BOA CONSTRUCTORS
- COATI MUNDI
- LIZARDS

29212 Orchard Rd.  
Farmington Hills, Mich. 48024

626-4303

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

# JOG

# SAUNA

# RACQUET BALL

# MASSAGE

# EXERCISE

# STEAM

# SWIM

Right in your neighborhood, right now. Men and women can save 20% on an executive charter membership to the nation's most complete health and racquet club, Vic Tanny. Any way you like it, our new Vic Tanny is geared to satisfy.



**VIC TANNY**  
**BLOOMFIELD HILLS**  
**EXECUTIVE HEALTH & RACQUET CLUB**

You and your body will love the plush surroundings, the peerless facilities, the luxurious get-in-shape atmosphere of this newest of the new Vic Tannys located in Bloomfield Hills at Telegraph and Maple Roads.

Rediscover the healthy and invigorating atmosphere of the great indoors: the joy of jogging, the pleasure of massage, the soothing benefits of steam or sauna, the sheer exhilaration of exercise and the stimulating sport on our seven indoor racquet ball courts.

This spectacular new health and racquet club offers separate deluxe facilities for both men and women. So, come to Vic Tanny today and get 20% off an executive charter membership. Soon, you'll be able to swim in the Olympic-sized pool, enjoy the sun rooms, steam rooms, private dressing rooms and locker facilities. And, pursue every form of exercise on thickly carpeted conditioning areas have to offer. But, join now... and save 20%.

Visit our on-site Display Center.  
Open 10-10 weekdays; til 6 on weekends.

**MEN AND WOMEN**  
**CALL 855-2300**