

Go west and find not-so-rapid grand havens



Towards late afternoon, it's time to sit back, put up the feet on the chaise lounge and watch the boats go by. This leisurely scene took place on a stretch of beach at Grand Haven. (Photo by Iris Sanderson Jones)

TRAVEL LOG of Iris Jones



It's time to think about tomorrow

The summer travel season is accelerating towards Labor Day and the industry already is thinking seriously about fall and winter travel. The Mailbag is overflowing with bits and pieces of information to help you plan your vacation this month or in the season ahead.

KANSAS HAS JOINED the list of states offering a toll-free fuel hotline. You can telephone 1-800-235-4559 if you are outside of Kansas and 1-800-332-4511 if you are inside Kansas. Either way, you can get information about fuel availability as well as gasoline prices and retail hours.

The hotline operates seven days a week, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Kansas time, which is central standard. That's 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Detroit daylight saving time.

If you are getting ready for international travel, you might like to know what's going on by land and sea outside the United States.

The American Express Co. has announced the introduction of the Argentine Peso Card. That means American Express cards are available now in 21 currencies. American Express will bill in pesos within Argentina and in dollars for foreign spending.

IF YOU'D RATHER go east you might want to think of Hungary as a new travel destination. If so, contact the BUSZ Hungarian Travel Bureau for North America at 630 Fifth Ave., Rockefeller Center, Suite 520, New York, N.Y. 10020 or telephone 212-582-7412.

They'll send you their new brochure on conventions and group tours.

Also this time of year to start planning your winter cruise. Holland America Cruise Lines has a number of different bits of news.

Non-smokers will be pleased to know that there will be non-smoking sections in the dining rooms of all five cruise ships.

New packages for the south Pacific and Asia also have provision for free air travel from the West Coast to the starting point of the cruise.

You can sail one-way between Vancouver and Singapore for rates starting at \$3,825, and be flown free on the other half of the trip. If you add a 14-day Indonesian adventure cruise to that package, you can choose between additional free air time and a travel allowance.

The Indonesia cruise can also be followed for the first time by a sail into China.

Scandinavian Airlines is introducing a business class service on North American routes and on the Trans-Asian Express, starting Feb. 1, 1980. It sounds like the same idea that was tried and later abandoned in the U.S. Full fare economy passengers sit closer to first class, get extra service and are otherwise separated from those who pay less.

And if you think all this travel activity is as new

as "Star Wars," please note that the Automobile Club of Michigan is celebrating 50 years of selling airline tickets. In the early days it took 24 hours to get from Detroit to Los Angeles.

Danes celebrating

This year's 15th annual Danish Festival will run for two days, Friday and Saturday, Aug. 17 and 18, and will feature many new events and exhibits.

Both Friday and Saturday, there will be an art fair, children's events and rides, slo-ball tournaments, Hans Christian Andersen's "Red Shoes" musical, a travel film program on Denmark, a contemporary art exhibit on loan from the Royal Danish Embassy in Washington, and helicopter rides.

At 6:30 p.m. Friday, area children will assemble for the Fairy Tale Parade, with prizes for costumes. Following the parade, the official Danish Festival Band and the Danish Dandies will perform for the visitors. Other events that evening include a street dance from 8 p.m. to midnight.

On Saturday, it's the third annual Danish Road Run, 5,000-meter and 10,000-meter races, and at 1 p.m., the Grand Danish Parade, highlight of the festival, with special guest Mary Jackson of TV's "The Waltons." Topping off the day's events, a visit to the Tivoli Gardens will net imported beer and Danish food and dancing.

For more information on the 1979 Danish Festival, write the 302 S. Lafayette Street, Greenville, or call 1-616-754-6389.

By IRIS SANDERSON JONES

GRAND HAVEN — It's the sand and the river channel that tie the town of Grand Haven to Lake Michigan. Yachts cruise up and down the Grand River to the lighthouse point, from where a great spread of sand turns left along a lake full of colored sails.

The sand is a blanket for the campers at Grand Haven State Park and for the bathers and boaters on a long stretch of beach spotted with bikinis and brightly colored sailboats.

It's the height of summer here, with freshly picked fruit running down everybody's chin and sunbathers desperately getting their summer's worth before they start thinking about Labor Day.

August, and the fuel crisis, make this a good time to plan a few days in the west Michigan country around Grand Rapids, Grand Haven and Holland. So these areas will be bustling with harvest festivals featuring corn, tart cherries, melons and other good stuff. That means roadside stands and freshly picked food at good prices.

It also means that the salmon are beginning to line up at the mouth of the river, getting ready to swim upstream to spawn.

The fishermen are waiting at the mouth of the Grand River at Grand Haven, where boats tie up downtown at the municipal marina. The marina is adjacent to two of the town's tourist attractions: the musical fountain, and the historical museum which occupies an old railroad station.

Several miles up the Grand River at Grand Rapids, people are already beginning to watch for the salmon from the Fish Ladder, which was designed for the city by Lowell sculptor Joseph Kinnebrew.

The Fish Ladder is adjacent to the rapids, where Grand Rapids businessmen have been known to pull on their high rubber boots and go fishing during the lunch hour.

Joseph Kinne and Alexander Calder are two very well-known names in Grand Rapids these days, because sculpture has become a trademark in this city.

Grand Rapids once was known for its furniture design, but the furniture makers abandoned the city long ago for cheaper labor markets in the south. The arts, under the leadership of the Grand Rapids arts council, are leading the city out of the economic slump that followed.

Calder's great orange statue "La grande vitesse" — literally the grand rapids — dominates the civic plaza downtown. It created controversy when it was built in 1959, but is now so popular its shape is reprinted on the city's garbage trucks and individual street signs.

A huge city festival is held in the plaza around the Calder every June, and it has become a tradition to commission a new piece of sculpture somewhere in the city every year.

THE CITY PARKS are full of whimsical art sculpture by Michigan artists. Kinnebrew's work is in several parts of the city. His most recent addition is the Kinnebrew bus shelter, elegantly curved wooden posts that grace bus stops all over the city.

One of the most amusing sculpture experiences for tourists is a work by Mene, DiSaverio, which is a hundred feet from the Calder on the civic center plaza. Kids from 10 to 70 like to swing on the huge tire that DiSaverio hung from a tripod of metal beams on the plaza.

If you like to do city walking tours, start at the Calder and head for the

Fish Ladder across the river. You can enjoy several works of art on the plaza and adjoining streets, cross the bridge to a small earth-sculpture park where the Gerald Ford Museum is being built beside the river, and walk upriver to the Fish Ladder.

On your way out of town, you might like to drive up to another important people place: an earth sculpture by international artist, Robert Morris. Grand Rapids has the first earth sculpture Morris built in North America.

NORTH OF THE CITY, you'll find an interesting area of reconstructed shops and restaurants in the town of Rockford.

They sell 12,000 hot dogs a week during the summer at reconstructed shops and restaurants in the town of Rockford.

West of Grand Rapids between Ada and Lowell, are three old covered bridges that are loved by photographers. One is in Ada, over the Thornapple River. The other two are White Bridge and Fallsburg Bridge, over the Flat River, near Lowell.

Two other interesting Kent County attractions are at Sparta, which has a rodeo and the world's largest flea market on Labor Day.

There are so many events going on in West Michigan this month that you would be wise to ask the West Michigan Tourist Association for a copy of "Carefree Days," which is published four times a year and lists accommodations, restaurants and current tourist events on the west side of the state.

Write the association at 136 Fulton in Grand Rapids. Some of the events listed for August are: the Newaygo County Fair in Fremont, Aug. 13-18; a presentation of "Damn Yankees" at Ramsdell Theater in Manistee, Aug. 16 to Sept. 1; the Danish Festival in Greenville, Aug. 17-18; Waterfront Art Fair in Frankfort, Aug. 18.

Aug. 18 also is the date of Saturday festivities like the Arts and Crafts Show at Norton Shores; the Heritage Festival at Bowness Mill, Gun Lake; the Court Basie Concert at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Whitehall; Old Timers Day at Vestaburg; and the Art Fair at Lakeland Vineyard in Harbert.

There's an antique auto show Aug. 18 in Hastings; a big baseball tournament, Aug. 24-27, in Battle Creek; the American Salmon Derby along Lake Michigan, Aug. 25 to Sept. 3; the Venetian Boat Parade in Grand Haven, Aug. 25; the Michigan Salmon Derby in Manistee, Aug. 25 to Sept. 9; an Antique Show in Allegan, Aug. 26; the Stan Musial Amateur Baseball World Series in Battle Creek, Aug. 30 to Sept. 3; and Homecoming Celebrations in Newaygo Aug. 30 to Sept. 3.

You can also participate in organized weekend bike tours that include lodging and meals. Write for a free brochure from Department A, 511 Second Street, Jackson 49203.

Interlochen Center for the Arts and Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp have concerts on all summer. Contact Blue Lake at 110 W. Colby in Whitehall 49461, and Interlochen by writing The National Music Camp, Interlochen, 49843.

West Michigan is trying a new, free reservations system called Selectall, which allows you to make reservations at 200 resorts and motels by stopping at the New Buffalo highway information station near Interstate 94.

The Michigan Department of Transportation has also established information centers in many of the rest areas across the state. These centers provide regular tourist information as well as emergency services.

Half-century mark met by auto club

It was 50 years ago that the Automobile Club of Michigan opened the state's first consolidated airline ticket office. Detroit to Cleveland there, its passengers could fly by conventional



'Twas 50 years ago these dapper souls lined up to purchase air travel tickets. Then, a trip ticket to Cleveland cost \$14.

aircraft or shorten the trip by 35 minutes on an amphibian plane which took off from the Detroit River near the Belle Isle Bridge and landed in Lake Erie just off the Cleveland shoreline.

When the Consolidated Air Travel Ticket Office opened June 27, 1929, in the then-Detroit Auto Club's office at 139 Bagley in Detroit, it was considered a commercial passenger service innovation.

Members and non-members could purchase tickets for flights on eight different airlines. A lounge was provided for waiting passengers and there was an information bureau plus regular bus service to and from the airport for passengers of Stout Air Services and Capitol Airways.

A taxicab stand was available at the Club's front door for immediate service to the airport for passengers of other airlines.

Stout Air Services offered a 25-mile sightseeing tour over the city of Detroit to give first-time flyers a taste of air travel. Tickets for these flights were sold at the Club's Consolidated Air Travel Ticket Office.

The trip to Cleveland cost \$14 for the 50-minute flight aboard the Ford tri-motor ship. Today's Detroit-to-Cleveland air fare is about \$39 and the flight takes 35 minutes.

The first ticket sold at the new ticket office was for a flight to Jackson, Mich., by Capt. W. S. Gilbreath, executive vice president of the Detroit Auto Club, sold the ticket to Thomas P. Henry of Detroit, then American Automobile Association president.

In its first two months of operation, the Consolidated Air Travel Ticket Office sold 971 airline tickets for a total sales volume of \$14,708. In the same two months of 1978, the club's World Travel Department, largest travel agency in the state, sold 17,017 tickets and its dollar sales volume was 208 times that figure — \$3,035,524.

"Our records show we issued a total of \$25,400,405 airline tickets to 109,277 passengers in 1978 and so far this year we are running ahead of last year's pace," said C. E. Stanbury, World Travel manager.

In the past 10 years, Stanbury said Auto Club's World Travel Department ticketed 659,447 passengers, and its dollar sales volume totaled \$118,540,257.

For a free copy of the booklet, write to the Travel and Tourist Association, American Center Building, Suite 250, 27777 Franklin Road, Southfield 48034.

Where to stay

Billed as the most complete travel directory in southeast Michigan, "Accommodations and Attractions in Southeast Michigan" lists hundreds of places to stay along with what to see and do in 114 county regions.

Included are 10 Southeast Michigan discovery tours, which lists visitor attractions and interesting points, all within minutes of the Detroit area.

For a free copy of the booklet, write to the Travel and Tourist Association, American Center Building, Suite 250, 27777 Franklin Road, Southfield 48034.

SEMTA TRAIN FARES ARE GOING UP. SLIGHTLY.

Here are the new SEMTA commuter train fares, effective September 4. You'll be pleased to see that we didn't derail one of the biggest transportation bargains around. September SEMTACARDS go on sale August 15.

	Chrysler Center	Milwaukee Junction	Renaissance Center
Pontiac—Zone 7			
One-way	1.15	1.25	1.45
10-trip	10.35	11.70	13.05
Monthly	34.50	39.00	43.50
Bloomfield Hills—Zone 6			
One-way	1.00	1.15	1.30
10-trip	9.00	10.35	11.70
Monthly	30.00	34.50	39.00
Charling Cross—Zone 5			
One-way	.85	1.00	1.15
10-trip	7.65	9.00	10.35
Monthly	25.50	30.00	34.50
Birmingham—Zone 5			
One-way	.75	1.00	1.15
10-trip	6.75	9.00	10.35
Monthly	23.50	30.00	34.50

	Chrysler Center	Milwaukee Junction	Renaissance Center
Royal Oak-12 Mile—Zone 4			
One-way	.70	.85	1.00
10-trip	6.30	7.65	9.00
Monthly	21.00	25.50	30.00
Royal Oak-11 Mile—Zone 4			
One-way	.70	.85	1.00
10-trip	6.30	7.65	9.00
Monthly	21.00	25.50	30.00
Pleasant Ridge—Zone 3			
One-way	.70	.70	.85
10-trip	6.30	6.30	7.65
Monthly	21.00	21.00	25.50
Ferndale—Zone 3			
One-way	.70	.70	.85
10-trip	6.30	6.30	7.65
Monthly	21.00	21.00	25.50

SEMTA

Call toll-free: 1 (800) 452-5161. From Detroit: 962-5515