

A warm place to visit, even when it's cold

By IRIS SANDERSON JONES

MARQUETTE, Mich. — When James Flaa was a boy, at the turn of the century, skiers jumped off snowy rooftops onto waiting snow banks.

There are lighted cross country ski trails, downhill facilities and snowmobile trails these days, but the spirit of sport hasn't really changed in the Upper Peninsula.

While downstate cuss their way through slushy streets and freeways en route to work, the U.P.s — as we downstaters call them and as they call themselves — enjoy their snow and winter.

The U.P. roads are usually clear, because "we keep the snow on the hills where it belongs." The snow is dry and powdery. And everybody on this southern shore of Lake Superior is dressed for a lengthy and cold winter.

As long as Interstate 75 is clear south of the Mackinac Bridge, families traveling north will find a great winter weekend in the Upper Peninsula.

Snowmobile trails run from the bridge to the Wisconsin border, marked on a map available from the Michigan Travel Commission at 300 S. Capital in Lansing, or by calling 1-800-292-2520 toll-free.

Marquette has the only lighted cross country ski trail within the limits of a Michigan city, so beginning and intermediate cross country skiers can circle the trail even at midnight. Other trails are marked around Presque Isle and in the countryside nearby, although the U.P.s just push off from their front door and ski across the nearest field if they live outside the downtown area.

Northern Michigan University, which has grown from 500 to 9,000 students in 25 years, sponsors a competitive team in both cross country and downhill skiing, and is trying to be recognized as an Olympic training site.

A full training site would be used for year-round sports preparation, but the proposal is primarily based



JAMES FLAA

on weather conditions and ski facilities in this area.

ONE OF THE most famous facilities, which provides ongoing spectator sport for the traveler, is at Suicide Hill in nearby Ishpeming, the home of ski jumping and the National Ski Hall of Fame.

Wining and dining

Ask somebody who's been there and you will get the following recommendations for accommodations and food in the Marquette area:

The Holiday Inn in Marquette is an excellent example of a chain motel fitted to its surroundings. It has a swimming pool and sauna in an adjoining building. Spanky's is where the locals go for music from high-volume amps. And the lobby is always full of skiers and basketball teams.

The Trolley Hof, a Swiss-chalet type motel on the lip of a hill, has a stocked trout pool and a chapel that is a miniature of a cathedral. Service is slow in the dining room, but the food is very good, and the atmosphere gemütlich.

The Old Marquette Inn is one building that escaped urban renewal. It has been restored downtown. Rooms are old but well kept. The dining room serves specialties of the house, including giant fried mushrooms. Mather Inn in Negaunee is a town institution for lunch and dinner. They serve pasties here, that specialty of the Upper Peninsula.

Most area pastie lovers tell you that these pastry-meat-and-potato specialties are best eaten when home-made. If that's not possible, ask around where to find the next best.

Ishpeming was the birthplace of the United States Ski Association, the national governing body for Olympic skiing. USSA will hold its 75th anniversary convention here in June, in the location where it gave birth to organized ski jumping and to the Hall of Fame.

Jim Flaa (in Scandinavia, two A's are pronounced O), an active 64-year-old seen regularly at the Hall of Fame, remembers clearly when it wasn't such an organized sport.

"When I was a kid, we would collect all the Christmas trees and make our own ski jump by covering them with snow after the season was over," Flaa said.

"When we skied off a roof, we didn't have a slope to land on, we just landed on the snowy ground."

Flaa was a founder of the USSA (then the National Ski Association) and later publicity director. He remembers the early skiers as "a rough group who had a lot of fun."

"There was often a beer keg at the bottom of the jump," he said, with a twinkle. "When the team went on the road, hotel keepers complained that the skiers tore things up. Sometimes they literally tore the bedsheets up to wax their skis."

The Ski Hall of Fame, which is

open free to tourists year-round, exhibits ski equipment from those days as well as copies of skis, two to 12 feet long, used for transportation by Norse skiers centuries ago.

Travelers who prefer their sports activities inside can take advantage of a sports club sponsored by Northern Michigan University. The club, which offers swimming, gym, racquetball and other activities, offers annual memberships to local residents and invites out-of-towners to participate for \$2 a day.

The Marquette Country Club, a popular haunt for golfers, cross country skiers and snowmobilers, also makes special arrangements for visitors.

It is insiders like Al Raymond of the Chamber of Commerce who make the U.P. a hometown experience for travelers. Although wild game dinners are normally not served at area restaurants, the chamber can sometimes tell you whether you can sit in on a feast of beaver, venison and bear somewhere in town.

IT IS THIS kind of insider's feeling that makes the Upper Peninsula a warm place to visit, even when it's cold outside.

In fact, in Upe country, nobody really likes a warm thaw unless it promises to lead to spring. "Warm weather just means sloppy streets, icy ski trails, cancelled ski jump events, and snowmobilers that sink too low in the snow."

A travel experience here is designed by the geography and the climate, as well as by the people you share it with.

Frank G. Matthews, area historian, runs the Jackson Mine Museum in Negaunee, on the very spot where the original iron mines once were worked. Matthews can tell you about those first surveyors and prospectors who opened up the north in the 19th century, and he has a few opinions about what we are doing to the ecology of that land now.

Ray Frieberg and Harry Bourgeois of the local snowmobile club can give you inside information on nearby trails, although you can no longer rent snowmobiles in Marquette. Frieberg has driven 1,700 miles on a single trip. Bourgeois grows 95 miles of snowmobile trails a week for the state.

John Gallagher, ski coach at Northern Michigan University, (along with Freiberg) is on the Trail



(Photos by Micky Jones)

Advisory Board of the Department of Natural Resources. They're U.P.s all, and they love it. If you would like to be a weekend Upe, contact Al Raymond at the Marquette Chamber of Commerce, 501 S. Front St., Marquette 49855 or Bob Helwig of the U.P. Travel and Recreation Association, P.O. Box 400, Iron Mountain 49801.

can give you inside information on nearby trails, although you can no longer rent snowmobiles in Marquette. Frieberg has driven 1,700 miles on a single trip. Bourgeois grows 95 miles of snowmobile trails a week for the state.

John Gallagher, ski coach at Northern Michigan University, (along with Freiberg) is on the Trail

What a time we had; how the muscles ache

It is midnight in Marquette, with the moon shining down on the cross country ski trail. A slim young man called Dominic is teaching 20 overweight travel writers how to ski.

We are overweight because we have just stuffed ourselves with breaded mushrooms and whitefish at the Old Marquette Inn.

Dominic has taught us to move rhythmically, one ski and the opposite hand at a time. He has shown us how to bend knees and hold the poles back while sliding down a hill.

I have the definite impression that someone helped me over the edge with the shove of a foot, but here I am gliding precariously down an icy slope without falling down.

I never have cross country before, and I am quite impressed until I see what is ahead. Three other beginners have made it down and are standing at the crossroads below me. Dominic didn't teach us how to stop or turn.

I holler. They turn but can't move fast enough. I bowl them down, and three skiers collapse in a pile behind me.

It is late afternoon on the snowmobile trail. I have never been on a snowmobile before. I drive once around

TRAVEL LOG of Iris Jones



As we come down the trail, he sees frozen branches about to swat us in the face. Slowly, quietly, he bends, kills the motor, and says 'We're going over.'

the Marquette Country Club golf course, posted "No Snowmobiling."

Next, I ride behind a travel writer who doesn't know what he's doing either. Finally, I climb behind a big solid man called Harry Bourgeois. He, obviously, is an expert.

I relax at once, because he certainly knows what he's doing. As we come down the trail, he sees frozen branches about to swat us in the face. Slowly, quietly, he bends, kills the motor, and says 'We're going over.'

We go over softly. Me. All 300 pounds of him. And the snowmobile.

By midnight, we are full of wild game. Beaver. Bear.

Venison is signed in every variation. A little beer to wash it down.

"Who's signed up for snowshoeing?" Not me, baby.

"OK, who wants to learn how to do ethnic dances?" "But I've never done that before."

I have found muscles that I didn't know I had when I drove up to that marvelous land of the UPES last week.

FROM THE MAILBAG — New flights are announced regularly this season, as airlines begin new services from Detroit to various parts of the world.

American Airlines inaugurated a new non-stop service between Detroit and Las Vegas this winter, with flights leaving Metropolitan Airport daily at 4:40 p.m. and leaving Vegas at noon daily for Detroit.

Delta Air Lines initiates a single-plane service between San Juan, Atlanta and Detroit this week. It leaves Detroit daily at 10:30 a.m. and arrives in San Juan at 4:50 p.m.

Branniff begins non-stop flights from Detroit to Paris, Frankfurt, Amsterdam and Brussels June 1, with round-trip European fares starting at \$380. Daily flights leave Detroit for Boston and Europe daily at 5 p.m. for a total of seven round trips a week: three to Paris and two each to Amsterdam and Brussels.

Butte-iful country

These rugged buttes of the North Dakota Badlands are found in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, one of America's newest national parks. The three-unit, 70,000-acre park is along the Little Missouri River in western North Dakota. For information on vacationing in the Sioux State, write North Dakota Travel Division, Capitol Grounds, Bismark, N.D. 58505.



COME PLAY IN TRAVERSE CITY
\$6995 per person
DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
Weekend play plan
includes:
*2 breakfasts *1 dinner *2
rides *2 days riding (for
other instruction) *2
rides *12 *1 motor shoe time
*Midwest & Ranch Road
plans available
Call Ellen
1-800-532-1702

PARK PLACE
Traverse City, Mich.
49664

Come to The Tremont and take home a weekend to remember

Enjoy elegant accommodations at THE TREMONT HOTEL and see the original Broadway play, "THE GRAND TOUR" starring Joel Grey. Stay for two nights (three days) enjoy Continental breakfast on Saturday morning and CRICKET'S 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 159th, 160th, 161st, 162nd, 163rd, 164th, 165th, 166th, 167th, 168th, 169th, 170th, 171st, 172nd, 173rd, 174th, 175th, 176th, 177th, 178th, 179th, 180th, 181st, 182nd, 183rd, 184th, 185th, 186th, 187th, 188th, 189th, 190th, 191st, 192nd, 193rd, 194th, 195th, 196th, 197th, 198th, 199th, 200th, 201st, 202nd, 203rd, 204th, 205th, 206th, 207th, 208th, 209th, 210th, 211st, 212th, 213th, 214th, 215th, 216th, 217th, 218th, 219th, 220th, 221st, 222nd, 223rd, 224th, 225th, 226th, 227th, 228th, 229th, 230th, 231st, 232nd, 233rd, 234th, 235th, 236th, 237th, 238th, 239th, 240th, 241st, 242nd, 243rd, 244th, 245th, 246th, 247th, 248th, 249th, 250th, 251st, 252nd, 253rd, 254th, 255th, 256th, 257th, 258th, 259th, 260th, 261st, 262nd, 263rd, 264th, 265th, 266th, 267th, 268th, 269th, 270th, 271st, 272nd, 273rd, 274th, 275th, 276th, 277th, 278th, 279th, 280th, 281st, 282nd, 283rd, 284th, 285th, 286th, 287th, 288th, 289th, 290th, 291st, 292nd, 293rd, 294th, 295th, 296th, 297th, 298th, 299th, 300th, 301st, 302nd, 303rd, 304th, 305th, 306th, 307th, 308th, 309th, 310th, 311st, 312th, 313th, 314th, 315th, 316th, 317th, 318th, 319th, 320th, 321st, 322nd, 323rd, 324th, 325th, 326th, 327th, 328th, 329th, 330th, 331st, 332nd, 333rd, 334th, 335th, 336th, 337th, 338th, 339th, 340th, 341st, 342nd, 343rd, 344th, 345th, 346th, 347th, 348th, 349th, 350th, 351st, 352nd, 353rd, 354th, 355th, 356th, 357th, 358th, 359th, 360th, 361st, 362nd, 363rd, 364th, 365th, 366th, 367th, 368th, 369th, 370th, 371st, 372nd, 373rd, 374th, 375th, 376th, 377th, 378th, 379th, 380th, 381st, 382nd, 383rd, 384th, 385th, 386th, 387th, 388th, 389th, 390th, 391st, 392nd, 393rd, 394th, 395th, 396th, 397th, 398th, 399th, 400th, 401st, 402nd, 403rd, 404th, 405th, 406th, 407th, 408th, 409th, 410th, 411st, 412th, 413th, 414th, 415th, 416th, 417th, 418th, 419th, 420th, 421st, 422nd, 423rd, 424th, 425th, 426th, 427th, 428th, 429th, 430th, 431st, 432nd, 433rd, 434th, 435th, 436th, 437th, 438th, 439th, 440th, 441st, 442nd, 443rd, 444th, 445th, 446th, 447th, 448th, 449th, 450th, 451st, 452nd, 453rd, 454th, 455th, 456th, 457th, 458th, 459th, 460th, 461st, 462nd, 463rd, 464th, 465th, 466th, 467th, 468th, 469th, 470th, 471st, 472nd, 473rd, 474th, 475th, 476th, 477th, 478th, 479th, 480th, 481st, 482nd, 483rd, 484th, 485th, 486th, 487th, 488th, 489th, 490th, 491st, 492nd, 493rd, 494th, 495th, 496th, 497th, 498th, 499th, 500th, 501st, 502nd, 503rd, 504th, 505th, 506th, 507th, 508th, 509th, 510th, 511st, 512th, 513th, 514th, 515th, 516th, 517th, 518th, 519th, 520th, 521st, 522nd, 523rd, 524th, 525th, 526th, 527th, 528th, 529th, 530th, 531st, 532nd, 533rd, 534th, 535th, 536th, 537th, 538th, 539th, 540th, 541st, 542nd, 543rd, 544th, 545th, 546th, 547th, 548th, 549th, 550th, 551st, 552nd, 553rd, 554th, 555th, 556th, 557th, 558th, 559th, 560th, 561st, 562nd, 563rd, 564th, 565th, 566th, 567th, 568th, 569th, 570th, 571st, 572nd, 573rd, 574th, 575th, 576th, 577th, 578th, 579th, 580th, 581st, 582nd, 583rd, 584th, 585th, 586th, 587th, 588th, 589th, 590th, 591st, 592nd, 593rd, 594th, 595th, 596th, 597th, 598th, 599th, 600th, 601st, 602nd, 603rd, 604th, 605th, 606th, 607th, 608th, 609th, 610th, 611st, 612th, 613th, 614th, 615th, 616th, 617th, 618th, 619th, 620th, 621st, 622nd, 623rd, 624th, 625th, 626th, 627th, 628th, 629th, 630th, 631st, 632nd, 633rd, 634th, 635th, 636th, 637th, 638th, 639th, 640th, 641st, 642nd, 643rd, 644th, 645th, 646th, 647th, 648th, 649th, 650th, 651st, 652nd, 653rd, 654th, 655th, 656th, 657th, 658th, 659th, 660th, 661st, 662nd, 663rd, 664th, 665th, 666th, 667th, 668th, 669th, 670th, 671st, 672nd, 673rd, 674th, 675th, 676th, 677th, 678th, 679th, 680th, 681st, 682nd, 683rd, 684th, 685th, 686th, 687th, 688th, 689th, 690th, 691st, 692nd, 693rd, 694th, 695th, 696th, 697th, 698th, 699th, 700th, 701st, 702nd, 703rd, 704th, 705th, 706th, 707th, 708th, 709th, 710th, 711st, 712th, 713th, 714th, 715th, 716th, 717th, 718th, 719th, 720th, 721st, 722nd, 723rd, 724th, 725th, 726th, 727th, 728th, 729th, 730th, 731st, 732nd, 733rd, 734th, 735th, 736th, 737th, 738th, 739th, 740th, 741st, 742nd, 743rd, 744th, 745th, 746th, 747th, 748th, 749th, 750th, 751st, 752nd, 753rd, 754th, 755th, 756th, 757th, 758th, 759th, 760th, 761st, 762nd, 763rd, 764th, 765th, 766th, 767th, 768th, 769th, 770th, 771st, 772nd, 773rd, 774th, 775th, 776th, 777th, 778th, 779th, 780th, 781st, 782nd, 783rd, 784th, 785th, 786th, 787th, 788th, 789th, 790th, 791st, 792nd, 793rd, 794th, 795th, 796th, 797th, 798th, 799th, 800th, 801st, 802nd, 803rd, 804th, 805th, 806th, 807th, 808th, 809th, 810th, 811st, 812th, 813th, 814th, 815th, 816th, 817th, 818th, 819th, 820th, 821st, 822nd, 823rd, 824th, 825th, 826th, 827th, 828th, 829th, 830th, 831st, 832nd, 833rd, 834th, 835th, 836th, 837th, 838th, 839th, 840th, 841st, 842nd, 843rd, 844th, 845th, 846th, 847th, 848th, 849th, 850th, 851st, 852nd, 853rd, 854th, 855th, 856th, 857th, 858th, 859th, 860th, 861st, 862nd, 863rd, 864th, 865th, 866th, 867th, 868th, 869th, 870th, 871st, 872nd, 873rd, 874th, 875th, 876th, 877th, 878th, 879th, 880th, 881st, 882nd, 883rd, 884th, 885th, 886th, 887th, 888th, 889th, 890th, 891st, 892nd, 893rd, 894th, 895th, 896th, 897th, 898th, 899th, 900th, 901st, 902nd, 903rd, 904th, 905th, 906th, 907th, 908th, 909th, 910th, 911st, 912th, 913th, 914th, 915th, 916th, 917th, 918th, 919th, 920th, 921st, 922nd, 923rd, 924th, 925th, 926th, 927th, 928th, 929th, 930th, 931st, 932nd, 933rd, 934th, 935th, 936th, 937th, 938th, 939th, 940th, 941st, 942nd, 943rd, 944th, 945th, 946th, 947th, 948th, 949th, 950th, 951st, 952nd, 953rd, 954th, 955th, 956th, 957th, 958th, 959th, 960th, 961st, 962nd, 963rd, 964th, 965th, 966th, 967th, 968th, 969th, 970th, 971st, 972nd, 973rd, 974th, 975th, 976th, 977th, 978th, 979th, 980th, 981st, 982nd, 983rd, 984th, 985th, 986th, 987th, 988th, 989th, 990th, 991st, 992nd, 993rd, 994th, 995th, 996th, 997th, 998th, 999th, 1000th, 1001st, 1002nd, 1003rd, 1004th, 1005th, 1006th, 1007th, 1008th, 1009th, 1010th, 1011st, 1012th, 1013th, 1014th, 1015th, 1016th, 1017th, 1018th, 1019th, 1020th, 1021st, 1022nd, 1023rd, 1024th, 1025th, 1026th, 1027th, 1028th, 1029th, 1030th, 1031st, 1032nd, 1033rd, 1034th, 1035th, 1036th, 1037th, 1038th, 1039th, 1040th, 1041st, 1042nd, 1043rd, 1044th, 1045th, 1046th, 1047th, 1048th, 1049th, 1050th, 1051st, 1052nd, 1053rd, 1054th, 1055th, 1056th, 1057th, 1058th, 1059th, 1060th, 1061st, 1062nd, 1063rd, 1064th, 1065th, 1066th, 1067th, 1068th, 1069th, 1070th, 1071st, 1072nd, 1073rd, 1074th, 1075th, 1076th, 1077th, 1078th, 1079th, 1080th, 1081st, 1082nd, 1083rd, 1084th, 1085th, 1086th, 1087th, 1088th, 1089th, 1090th, 1091st, 1092nd, 1093rd, 1094th, 1095th, 1096th, 1097th, 1098th, 1099th, 1100th, 1101st, 1102nd, 1103rd, 1104th, 1105th, 1106th, 1107th, 1108th, 1109th, 1110th, 1111st, 1112nd, 1113th, 1114th, 1115th, 1116th, 1117th, 1118th, 1119th, 1120th, 1121st, 1122nd, 1123rd, 1124th, 1125th, 1126th, 1127th, 1128th, 1129th, 1130th, 1131st, 1132nd, 1133rd, 1134th, 1135th, 1136th, 1137th, 1138th, 1139th, 1140th, 1141st, 1142nd, 1143rd, 1144th, 1145th, 1146th, 1147th, 1148th, 1149th, 1150th, 1151st, 1152nd, 1153rd, 1154th, 1155th, 1156th, 1157th, 1158th, 1159th, 1160th, 1161st, 1162nd