

BD(B) (F-5D, Ro-15A, L-7C)

travel log
Iris Sanderson Jones
 contributing travel editor

On the road, er, tracks

The kids at the end of the platform jump up and down with delight when the Amtrak train is first sighted, its engine gleaming on the long tracks. The train left the Amtrak station in Detroit at 8:30 a.m. We are boarding in Dearborn at 8:45. We are scheduled to arrive in Chicago at 1 p.m.

Amtrak celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, amid a budget debate that could effectively put it out of business. Theoretically, our railway passenger service is still in President Reagan's budget, but Amtrak President Alan S. Boyd says that proposed funds are not enough to run a national train system.

I decided to ride the rails from Detroit to Chicago to see what would be missing if we lost that run.

THE TRAIN LEAVES four times a day on weekdays and three times a day on weekends, with stops at Ann Arbor, Jackson, Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, Niles and sometimes Dowagiac and Michigan City. It costs \$22.50 one way, \$65 round-trip. There is a \$49 ticket for those who don't travel after 11 a.m. on Friday or Sunday.

The price is close to what it would cost one person to drive, but there are considerable savings when more than one person is involved. The train also saves the hassle of the road, and the cost of parking in Chicago.

Dearborn is the logical station for travelers from Oakland and western Wayne counties. Take Michigan Avenue a few hundred yards east of the Southfield freeway, and you will see a tiny Amtrak sign pointing down a road beside Henry Ford Centennial Library Park in the parking lot behind the Dearborn York Center.

Baggage must be checked 30 min-

Keweenaw Peninsula
The top of Michigan isn't the place for swingers

By **Bette Cannon**
 special writer

The first thing you smell is the pines. The second is wood smoke. Then as you pull up the curved drive, you catch sight of the massive main hall and log cabins set in the piney woods.

Beside each doorstep, firewood is stacked neatly. You hear the soft "thwack" of tennis ball on racket. A laugh echoes.

This is the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge in Copper Harbor on the northernmost tip of Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula. Not a place for swingers, single or otherwise, it is suited more for star- and fire-gazers, hikers and scenery-oglers.

The main building and 33 cabins of Keweenaw Mountain Lodge were constructed during the 1930s as part of Roosevelt's New Deal; the Civil Works Administration and, later, the Works Progress Administration, put unemployed miners to work.

JUDGING BY the handcrafted, solid look of things, there couldn't have been much shoveling by local workers who wrestled pine and stone from the forest to build the resort complex. The lodge is the only county-owned-and-operated inn in the country.

It is a place of escape complete with a tennis court, shuffleboard and nine-hole golf course, also built by the miners. In a nice combination of modern comfort and rustic ambience, your log cabin has a living room, bath and one or two bedrooms. There is a folio-bed in each living room.

Dress is casual in the main hall dining room. There are no lines. The menu features prime rib, Lake Superior trout and whitfish in season.

After dinner, as you return to your cabin carrying your flashlight, you sense the vastness of the forest here in Copper Country. This remote place once held 100,000 people. Prospectors, speculators, miners, soldiers and all those who served them swarmed into this area in the 1840s.

The resulting copper boom rivaled the California Gold Rush of the 1850s in wealth and activity.

Little mining remains. Occasionally, a trace of gleaming metal shines from rocky outcroppings in wilderness areas. Abandoned mines dot the landscape. Even lumbering and fishing, which replaced mining, have dwindled. Scars left by lumbering have healed. Hillsides are covered with pine and hardwoods.

THE TOP OF Brockway Mountain gives you a breathtaking view of this green world. Leave your cabin before sunrise and go to the top of Brockway Mountain, rising 700 feet above sea level for spectacular views of giant Lake Superior, smaller lakes, villages and forests. Refreshed, you can return to your cabin, read, walk or play tennis, then go into town.

Copper shopping is the thing to do in Copper Harbor. Some things are tourist-tacky, but many are interesting. Maps of Michigan made of hammered copper show the Upper Peninsula twice its normal size, overpowering the Lower Peninsula and underscoring the rivalry between the two parts of the state. There are also shops for rock hounds, featuring agates and copper nuggets from Lake Superior's rocky shores.

A good place for lunch in town is Harbor Haus at the foot of First Street. Though much altered, the structure was once the Government House, a land agency on Porter Island. At the height of the rip-roaring copper boom, it was moved across the harbor to its present location. From the restaurant, which features German food, there is a good view of the harbor.

At sunset return to Brockway Mountain for another look, or board the ferry at the foot of Fifth Street, below Brockway Drive, for a boat tour of Copper Harbor.

Low sun glints on shop windows and on the 1866 lighthouse, once the guardian of ore ships and sailing vessels coming into Copper Harbor. On a good night, if you are lucky, you might see full-spinnakered sailboats loom out of the dusk, racing for Duluth. Be sure to wear a warm sweater for this trip.

This is also the spot to catch the ferry to Isle Royale, 48 miles out into Lake Superior, Michigan's famous is-

land wilderness where camping facilities are available.

FORT WILKINS State Park, the last remaining wooden fort east of the Mississippi, is a nearby attraction. In 1844, because of the boom-town atmosphere, authorities feared confrontation between copper seekers and Indians. After all, most veins of copper were on lands once owned by the Chippewa.

Fort Wilkins was built to protect the miners, but low morale, illegal whiskey and long winters were the enemies, not the Chippewa. Most hostilities were between soldiers and miners.

There are 15 original buildings inside the fort, including mess halls and barracks, officers' quarters with lace curtains at the window, the bakery and the laundry, where enlisted men's wives worked.

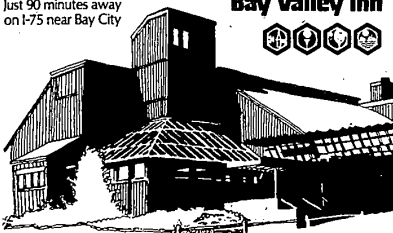
To learn more about miners who lived and worked in Copper Country when copper was king, you should see some of the abandoned mines in the area. Twelve miles south of Copper Harbor is the Delaware Mine with its labyrinthine shafts and tunnels below ground. Or try the Arcadian Copper Mine at Ripley, where copper and agate specimens are sold in the gift shop. Tours are available at both.

THE GHOSTS of all those miners will be waiting for you back at the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge, where firelight warms every room.

For more information about Copper Harbor, contact the Copper Harbor Chamber of Commerce, Copper Harbor, MI 49918 or call Keweenaw Mountain Lodge at (906) 289-4403.

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