

# Burroughs Farms

## The North Country lives on in Brighton

**T**HE SPEEDBOATS make a wake across Little Crooked Lake, past private cottage docks to the picnic tables and beach at Burroughs Farms. The houseboat around the corner of the store is parked here for the summer. The motor and sailboats in the tiny marina are more temporary. It is late afternoon now and the sunburns are still on the beach, but soon they will go back to the cottages and campgrounds, prepare a bonfire for the kids and join members of the family who have been playing golf all day on the championship golf course beyond the fence.

THE SCENE is not 200 miles away in the North Country, but half an hour's drive from Detroit near Brighton, where Burroughs Corp. built a summer resort for its employees in 1927. The property was bought by private investors and opened to the public this year.

Burroughs Farms is a 535-acre resort with 50 unfurnished cottages, 80 furnished cottages, 117 campsites, a playground, beach, boat dock area, plus an 18-hole and a nine-hole golf course.

If your idea of a resort is a log cabin lodge or a swimming pool with service, this is definitely not for you. The cottages at Burroughs Farms are just like the one your grandmother once owned — little wooden huts with bunk beds, holes in the fly screens, peeling paint and all.

Unlike grandma's place, you don't have to go out back to the outhouse. Cottages have indoor plumbing, running water, a refrigerator and other comforts of home, although the quality of the cottages is very uneven.

NUMBER 237 is a blue clapboard cottage in an uneven row of cottages, with a big kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom with shower and a big sun porch. You can sleep at least two in each bedroom, two more on bunks in the sun porch and another couple on the pull-out sofa-bed.

That's the good news. And it will cost you \$200 a week, \$72 for a weekend.

At the other end of the spectrum are unfurnished cottages rentable by the season for \$1,000, or by the month for



one-of-a-kind traveler

Iris Jones

contributing travel editor

\$400. Some are tiny one-rooms, others larger, most are very basic.

Myron Serbay, who grew up in Redford and is now the manager of the property, wants people to know that they are just cottages, unglamorous but clean, and that they are being upgraded one by one.

Some of the renters have made the transition from company to private resort. John Rioux of Livonia has been coming here as a Burroughs employee for years. This summer he took six couples, with a total of two dozen children, to the farms.

On a sunny weekday afternoon, he could be found stretched out on the busy crescent of sand beach with his wife, Diana, and his daughter, Mary Jo. Five other children were around the property somewhere, the older boys happily putting on the golf course.

The golf course is as deluxe in its rich green rolling hills as the cottages are plain. The 18-hole, par 71 course has 6,300-yard championship hilly terrain. Annual membership costs \$300. Weekend green fees are \$14.

THE ESSENCE of any vacation is knowing what pleasures you. Bill and Nikki Westberg of Farmington Hills knows what pleasures them, and their daughters, Cathy and Laura.

The girls get up early for swimming lessons. The family goes to the beach to play on the paddle boats and in the sun. They go back to their cottage for lunch, and light a big bonfire out back at night.

When the weiners are roasted, Bill sometimes plays Pac-Man in the Activity Center with the kids, but he always loses.

For information, contact Burroughs Farms, 5341 Brighton Road, Brighton 48116, or call 227-1381. Take Interstate 96 to Exit 147, turn right and drive through Brighton and on out Main Street about two miles until you see the sign.

Daily admission is \$3 a carload on weekdays, \$3 a person on weekends. You don't pay for tennis rackets, horseshoes, etc. You do pay for boat rental.



photos by IRIS SANDERSON JONES

Burroughs Farms has cottages (above) just like the one your grandmother once owned, as well as campsites, golf courses, a boat dock and a beach. John Rioux and his daughter Mary Jo of Livonia (right) were among those relaxing on the beach recently.



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