

An insider's guide New book details state's shoreline

A TRAVELER'S best friend is an in-town guide, an insider who knows the travel destination intimately and is willing to share the secret places that tourists seldom find. Sometimes you find an insider like that between the covers of a book. That's the way it is with "The Long Blue Edge of Summer," a new guidebook which details for the first time the attractions found along Michigan's 3,100 miles of Great Lakes shoreline.

The book was written by Doris Scharfenberg of



1-of-a-kind traveler
Iris Jones
contributing travel editor

Farmington Hills, who began her love affair with Michigan as a child and continues it with this manuscript. The book was published by Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. of Grand Rapids, another strictly Michigan institution.

It is illustrated by maps, descriptive features, photographs and lots of hard-fact information about speed limits and fishing licenses.

Scharfenberg was born in Detroit and first discovered the lakeshore when her mother, a Detroit policewoman, took her to cottages on Lake Huron.

"I was a city kid, tightly surrounded by trees and tall buildings, so I remember clearly looking out and being astounded by all that space," she said.

After graduating from Mackenzie High School and Hillsdale College, she married and started raising four children. Her fever drove her out of the city to campgrounds around Michigan. Since then she has been enjoying the lakeshore, and writing travel stories about Michigan for magazines as varied as Better Homes and Gardens, Odyssey, a Detroit News, Michigan Living and Newsday.

THIS YEAR SHE was given the Ambassador of Tourism Award by Governor William Milliken for her "consistent promotion of Michigan."

That isn't a duty, it's pure love. "These lakes are a blessing that most local people don't really appreciate," she said. "Nowhere else in the world will you find so much water and freshwater shoreline in one place."

"Americans from the east and west coast are so used to looking at broad oceans that they do not realize what is available in the Midwest. Europeans know. They come and are astonished at what they see."

Scharfenberg's tips for traveling in Michigan are: "Explore. Most people stick to well-known resort areas like the Straits, Mackinac Island or the Traverse Bay area. They ignore the sand dunes of Grand Marais, for example. Its glorious, and I've never seen a crowd there."

"The Long Blue Edge of Summer," which describes every pier, lighthouse, museum, scenic turnout, ghost town, agate beach, boat ride, etc. on the Michigan shores of four of the Great Lakes, is available through bookstores.

Scharfenberg is a member of the Detroit Women Writers, Midwest Travel Writers and Society of American Travel Writers.



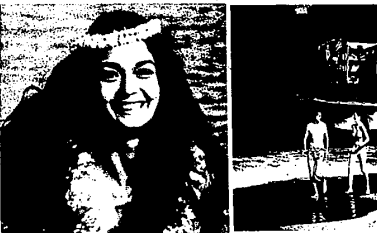
Doris Scharfenberg atop the Mackinac Bridge.

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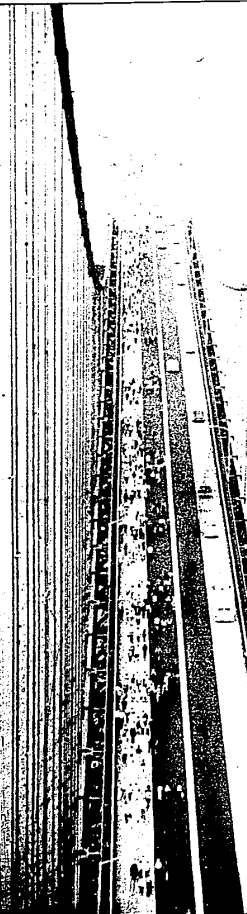
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