CHECKMATES ISNT a house-sitting service.

Barrett emphasized. Barrett and Smilth won't spend nights in a home or take care of pets.

"We haven't said anything about dogs or animals." Barrett said." If I walked in, and a Doberman was there. . That's just common sense.

"We're staying away from watching animals," the went on. "That's a big responsibility and that animal could turn on you. We haven't really ruled it out, but were leery about it.

The business asks for at least a few days' notice. Barrett and smith will meet with the redients and sign an agreement with them. "That way they would know w." Barrett jand.

The contract stipulates that the workers will go into the home a certain number of times Barrett said there are ways of proving that this was done, such as calling a number that would appear on the

resident's phone bill, along with listing the date it was called.

Barrett said the business has served three clients of air in its two weeks of operation. One way she and Smith have acquired clients has been to leave their names with travel agencies, Barrett said.

"We're getting a pretty decent response," said.

"We're getting a pretty decent response," said.

"We're getting a pretty decent response," said.

"Barrett said she and Smith saw the house-watch. Barrett said she and Smith saw the house-watch to think was tred to every per. "Everyone seemed to think was tred to every first trad." If you do leave your house, you really not cleave your house, you really not cleave your house, you really not cleave your house, you really an every saiding neighbors to keep an eye on the home, Barrett said.

"A lot of people don't want their neighbors in the house for various reasons," she said. "A lot of neighbors never go anywhere, and you can't repay the favor. And someons told one, 'I get tired of rasking my neighbors,'"

To contact 'Checkmates, call 553-8928 or 553-7408.

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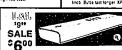
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Michigan tourism picking up

"The U.S. Travel Data Center, a non-profit or-ganization based in Washington, D.C., indicated acity last year that Michigan tourism would de-cline by nine to 11 percent," Drury said. "White travel inationwide declined 7.8 percent from Janu-ry through October, we fared much better than predicted."

Michigan Travel Bureau figures show the 1982

natengan travet sureau tigures snow the 1982 summer season occupancy rate at lodgings in the state fell 3.1 percent compared to last year. While southern Michigan facilities surveyed reg-istered a slight increase in occupancies of .8 per-cent, facilities in the Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula had respective drops of 4.7 and 3.5 percent.

3.5 percent.

Travel was bolstered also by the slowing of the inflation rate. The Travel Price Index, which reflects Michigan's travel costs, rose 5.7 percent in 1981-82, compared to 12.9 percent in 1980-81. Tra-

velers in Michigan spent an average \$83.50 per night last year compared to \$81.50 in 1981.
Michigan's summer tourism was hurt by the economy, ecol and wet weather and the World's Fair in Knoxville, which drew more than 11 million visitors, according to the Auto Club. The summer season traditionally accounts for as much as 60 percent of the annual tourism activity in the state.

The bitter cold and weekend storms in January and an unseasonably mild December that kept sklers off the stopes were cited as another negative factor.

ers off the supers were cross as a more factor.

The number of miles driven in Michigan last year dropped one percent from 1981 to 61.3 billion, while the number of Mackinac Bridge crossings dropped 1.1 percent below 1981 figures.

The total visitor counts for the 10 travel information centers monitored statewide during the 15-week summer season rose 5.3 percent. Sult 580. Marie and Mackinaw City experienced total increases during all but one of the 15 weekly periods.

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