

Travel



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Thursday, March 20, 1986 O&E

Fishin' trip's great reward: fish cooked fresh

I USED TO order all these elegant fish dishes from restaurant menus: sole, almadine, flounder stuffed with crab. I still order them sometimes, but after my first fishing trip I was always looking for something called Fish Cooked on a Rock.

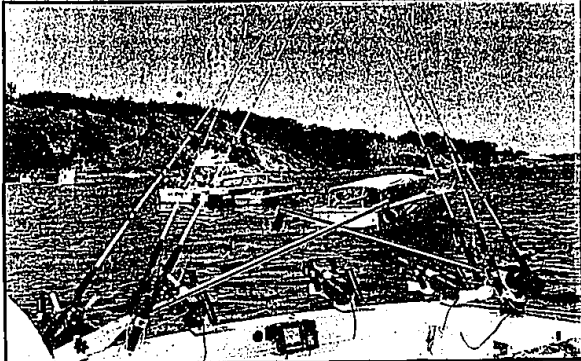
If you have ever caught a fish and cooked it outside while it is still wiggling, you know what I mean. There is no fish recipe in the world quite like it, no matter how many tuxedoed waiters may serve it.

My first real fishing trip was a Cranberry Portage near Flin Flon, Manitoba, a thousand miles north of the U.S.-Canada border, but it could have been anywhere. If it's a fishing camp, there is a cabin, a boat and a guide who knows where all the fish are hiding.

If not, there is just you, the boat and hopefully a rock large enough to hold you, the fish and an open fire. Fishermen are motivated by the universal rule: no fish, no lunch.

Here is the recipe. Catch a few fish. Tie up to the shore or to a rocky island. Pile the fish away from the eating area so that the flies don't join you for lunch. Light a fire. Heat an inch of oil in the pan. Dip the fish filets in a little flour carried in a plastic bag. Fry fish lightly.

WHILE THE fish are cooking,



Fishing boats on the Grand River near Grand Haven are lined up in anticipation. The reward may well be the opportunity to cook a fresh fish over an outdoor fire as Gary Rico does here.



The best is cooking a fish outside while it is still wiggling. There is no fish recipe in the world quite like it, no matter how many tuxedoed waiters may serve it.

If you are strictly a good weather summer fisherman, think "Toronto." The word conjures up scenes of the CN Tower, pleasant shopping malls, a Blue Jays baseball game and fishing.

Fishing? Yes. According to the Metropolitan Toronto Convention and Visitors Association, sports fishing has "caught on" in metro Toronto to the tune of over \$180 million annually.

THE GREAT Salmon hunt, a fishing tournament started in 1975 and sponsored by the Toronto Star newspaper, drew approximately 12,000 registered anglers to Lake Ontario last year.

Approximately 15 miles from downtown Toronto, on the shore of Lake Ontario, a fleet of charter boats work out of the marina at Bluffers Park in Scarborough. Plans are under way to build a new \$30 slip marina in the area. Adams Charter Service, run out of Bluffers Park, features up-to-date electronic equipment, including sonar scanners.

The sports fishing season in Toronto runs from July to late September. During that time, you can take in Canada's Wonderland theme park, the Canadian National Exhibition, Ontario Place or the Toronto Zoo.

The current currency exchange rate makes metro Toronto a good deal better than you're interested in fishing or sightseeing. For more information on sports fishing or other attractions, call the Metropolitan To

stand around with a cold beer and a Spanish onion sandwich, two pieces of store-bought brown bread spread with butter and filled with onion slices. Add the fresh pan-fried fish and you will never really be satisfied with restaurant fish again.

If you recognize that scenario, you are probably already geared up for the fishing season as we move into spring.

Some people's thoughts may turn to love during this season, but a

fisherman's thoughts turn to smelt. If you like to feel the weight of smelt in your dip net, to prowl the icy streams at night and feast later, your time has come. If you don't have a favorite spot of your own, fire up the lantern, grab the waders and go to the Tawas area for the smelt run beginning April 1.

DON'T FORGET to pack your trout license so you can also participate in the Brown Trout Derby held there April 1 through June 20.

Here is a sampling of more fishing tournaments and events scheduled for this spring in Michigan:

- Ririe River Sucker Festival, Omer, April 11-13.
- Spring Fishing Tournament, Lake Huron, April 15-May 26.
- Perch Festival, Caseville, April 19-27.
- 50th National Trout Festival, Kalkaska, April 21-27.
- Trout and panfish season opens at Mill Pond, April 26.
- Opening of general trout season, April 26.
- Muskegon, northern pike and walleye season opens statewide, May 15.
- Bass season opens statewide, May 24.

• Second Annual Lake Charlevoix Trout Tournament, Charlevoix, May 17-18.

• Fishing Festival, Northport, May 24-25.

• Boat Show, Petoskey, May 24-25.

• Fish Bait, Pentwater, June 21.

Also, throughout 1986 get a "buck for perch" as 10,000 perch have been tagged at Tawas, Pinconning, Bay Port and Port Austin, all on Saginaw Bay. For more information, call 517-362-3449.

A DETAILED guide to Lake Huron and Saginaw Bay has fish identification charts, info on fish plantings, fishing charters, sailing charters, boat launching locations, guide services, pier fishing and fishing methods. Send \$1 to: Fishing Map, East Michigan Tourist Association, 1 Wenonah Park, Bay City 48708. For license information, call the Department of Natural Resources at (517)373-1220.

For those fishermen who like to combine the sport with camping and for all those camping enthusiasts out there, the Michigan Association of Recreational Vehicles and Camp-

grounds (MARVAC) has a free 1986 campground directory available.

The directory lists all member campgrounds and also the services available at each campground, as well as recreational vehicle dealerships where the R.V. traveler can have his "home away from home" serviced.

TO RECEIVE the 1986 Michigan Campground and Recreational Vehicle Dealer Directory, send a self-addressed, 39-cent stamped envelope to "1986 Campground Directory," 19045 Farmington Road, Livonia 48152, or for more information call 477-3434. MARVAC is a division of the Michigan Mobile Home and Recreational Vehicle Institute, a non-profit, state trade association representing the recreational vehicle industries in Michigan.

OCC sponsors 21-day history tour of Europe

Oakland Community College is sponsoring a Natural History Tour of Western Europe from May 27 to June 16.

Zoological parks and natural history museums in Austria, Germany, France and the Netherlands will be featured on the 21-day tour.

On the itinerary are visits to Vienna, Salzburg, Munich, Frankfurt, Paris and Amsterdam.

Individuals will also have an opportunity to earn college credit in biology or zoology in conjunction with the tour. Participation is optional.

"We'll travel in our own air-conditioned bus," explains Haywood Pearce, OCC biology faculty member

and tour escort. "Aside from the zoos and museums, there will be city tours, and time to sight-see, go to restaurants and visit some of the architectural and artistic treasures of the cities."

The cost of the tour is \$2,112 per person-including hotel accommodations, admission fees, transfers, service charges, and daily continental breakfasts and dinners. Reservations are required 30 days prior to departure.

For more information about the OCC Natural History Tour, contact Haywood Pearce at 471-7868, or Faber Travel in Ann Arbor at 769-9011.

UP travel guide available

The latest Official Travel Guide to Michigan's Upper Peninsula features a wealth of information about what is going on and what is planned in the UP.

The booklet contains information on such things as ferry passenger service to Mackinac Island, tours of the Soo Locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Pictured Rocks Cruises out of Mon-

ing and tips on how to see the Tahquamenon River and Falls.

The 90-page full-color Official Travel Guide is available upon request from Michigan's Upper Peninsula Travel and Recreation Association (UPTRA), Box 400-R, Iron Mountain, MI 49801. Telephone 906/774-5480.

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