

Travel



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O&E Thursday, August 21, 1986

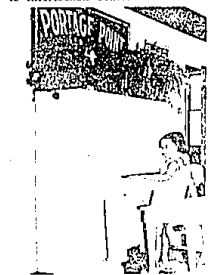
Driving around the coast

Leads to interesting places like old inn, Interlochen

We have just arrived home from a week of driving around Michigan's northwest coast. We have a foam cooler full of salmon, rolls of black-and-white and color film ready to process and notebooks full of good travel information to share with you.

"We" means me and my photographer-husband, Micky Jones, whose pictures have appeared regularly on this page since it began in 1978. Micky retired from Ford Motor Co. April 1 to become a full-time travel photographer, so you will see a lot more of him in pages to come.

We drove to Manistee, went north to Interlochen Center for the Arts



The piano in the casino of the old Portage Point Inn attracts many a visitor including this less from Grosse Pointe Woods.

and Traverse City and came full circle via the Leelanau Peninsula to Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore. We will be doing full-length stories on some of the places we visited, but for now come with us on a fast tour of one of Michigan's most popular areas.

Our first stop was Portage Point Inn at Onkama, between Manistee and Frankfort. There is good news on some of the places we visited, but for now come with us on a fast tour of one of Michigan's most popular areas.

On a typical summer afternoon you see swimmers and sunbathers around the pool that fronts the white-pillared hotel building that started it all, and families playing shuffleboard between the boat docks and the veranda. The rest of the guests may be in the Casino, drinking beer, playing the piano or the pool table.

That's the good news. The bad news is that the Inn will close on Labor Day instead of staying open through October, or even year-round, as hoped. Some of the bedroom units will stay open, along with the snack bar/casino, but the dining room and other inn facilities will be closed until next season.

It takes more than a coat of white paint to create a modern resort out of historic old buildings like this, and the renovations necessary for fall and winter have not been completed. Our next stop was Interlochen. You may or may not know that you can stay overnight at Interlochen Center for the Arts. The national music camp was still in session when we were there, so we could wander among the teaching studios set in the woods and hear the talented young



MICKY JONES

NOT JUST FOR MUSICIANS — As the sign says, visitors are welcome at the Interlochen music camp. They can enjoy the sights, book lodgings and listen to excellent music. A student from Illinois (right) hauls her instrument and music along one of the camp's trails.

people in the concerts offered every night on campus.

The music camp folded up this week, but you can still visit the campus for a few hours or stay overnight in either the small hotel rooms or one of the larger cabins. We stayed in a pine cabin, which looks very much like the roadside cabins you still sometimes find in the Upper Peninsula; they were once very common nationwide.

The cabin offers you a large room with two double beds and a toilet and shower. It is, of course, not Holiday Inn standard, but it is very clean and comfortable, and fits very well into the treed setting of the camp. Some cabins have up to four bedrooms.

Rates are \$38 single, \$58 double, \$14 for kids over five and \$9 for kids under five in the pine cabins, offi-

cially known as Scholarship Lodge Rooms, because the profits go toward student scholarships. These rates include three consecutive meals per person in Stone Student Center cafeteria, a typical campus-style eatery full of noise and low-cost but filling food.

You can stay in the student center rooms or one of the residence units for the same rates, \$12 more at the student center if you want a lake view. There are a few lodges with housekeeping facilities.

The summer camp may be over, but the place is still active. The 26th annual Chamber Music Conference is on Aug. 19 through 26, giving you the opportunity to listen-in on string master classes, keyboard workshops, duo-piano sessions and nightly concerts.



The Academy, a regular fall-through-spring high school dedicated to students with artistic leanings, will be in session before Labor Day, so the music goes on. What you miss, of course, are the many opportunities to hear music outdoors, activities that become less prevalent as

the days get cooler.

For more information, contact Interlochen Center for the Arts, Interlochen, 49643 or telephone (616) 279-9221. There is no charge to enter the grounds or listen to classes and rehearsals; there is a small charge for evening concerts.

Bikers cover scenic trails, stay at B and B's

If you are interested in bicycle tours but your traveling companion is interested in good beds and good food in an attractive setting, you'll be glad to know that both appetites can be served on the same trip.

Spokesongs, the largest bicycling vacation company in north Central Midwest, has planned weekend getaways in cooperation with the Minnesota Bed and Breakfast Association. Bikers combine scenic trails with lodging at various B and Bs:

On Aug. 22-24 from Lake City, Minn., with accommodations at the Rihaly House, an 1886 classic Greek Revival house. On Sept. 12-14 from Osceola, Minn., at St. Croix River Inn, a luxury stone home dating from the early 1900s. On Sept. 19-21 from Hastings, Minn., with lodging in the Thorndike Inn, a French Second Empire architecture.

These weekend tours are rated for novice, beginner, intermediate and advanced cyclists. Hosted by two trained tour guides, the trips are planned with alternate routes to accommodate all levels of ability. A support van goes along to give you a lift if you need it.

Costs for tours range from \$100 to \$250 for weekenders. Package includes lodging, all meals and use of helmets if needed. Spokesongs also has quality 10-speed bikes to rent. Contact Spokesongs Inc., #RG, 130 Fir Street, Mahomet, Minn. 55115, or call (612) 429-2877.

FOR FALL bicycling tours, there is a magic sound to the word "Vermont" with its autumn colored forests and its off the through-way secondary roads, its history and small-town life.

To enjoy touring Vermont in August, September and October contact Bike Vermont Inc., P.O. Box 207, Woodstock, Vt. 05091, or call (802) 457-3553. They will give you more information about their midweek (five-day) or weekend (two-day) trips with varying mileage throughout the state. Each tour offers views of New England villages, farms, covered bridges, antique and craft shops and simple, breathtaking scenery. And yes, there will be hills, but you are advised that it is all right to walk up and then have the exhilarating ride downhill.

Six country inns have been chosen

to house bikers, and sometimes your group will be the only residents of the inn. If you choose the five-day tour, you will visit a different inn every night, from the Middlebury College to the Gables Inn at Stowe which features swimming pool and sauna with views of Mt. Mansfield and the Green Mountains at every turn.

Standard rates for August and peak-color weekend tours are \$170 for adults and \$155 for children over 10. Midweek tours are \$455 adult and \$415 child. Reduced rates for all tours are available from Sept. 1 to 21 and from Oct. 18 through 26.

Weekend: Adult \$155, child \$140. Midweek: adult \$405, child, \$365. When making plans, it might be worthwhile to note that bikers will travel between 20 and 35 miles per day. This translates into three to five

hours of actual biking and is spread out over a whole day. Tour leaders will check novices out on the 10-speed bicycles, which may be rented if you do not have your own.

IF VERMONT seems to close to home, you might like to bicycle in French Polynesia. Off the Deep End Travels has a two-island, eight-day adventure planned to depart once a month until October. You will explore the islands of Moorea and Tahiti in easy day trips, returning to your hotel each night.

There will be plenty of time for swimming and snorkeling and for doing what comes naturally in Polynesia. This tour costs \$795 plus airfare of \$789 on UTA French Airlines.

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