

Travel



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 photographic friend, 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



Iris Jones

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 Onekama, between Manistee and Frankfort. There is good news: news from this great sprawl of white clapboard spread across the peninsula of land that separates Portage Lake from Lake Michigan. It was built in the days when lake steamers brought summer travelers to play shuffleboard in their 1920s skirts and striped jackets.

On a typical summer afternoon you see Sunbathers 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 verandah. 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, cafe, 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



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 camp for a few hours or stay overnight either in 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 tried 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 the Student Center cafeteria, a typical campus-style eatery full of noise and cost but filling food.

You can stay in the student 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 comes. 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 (615) 279-9221. There is no charge to enter the grounds or listen to classes and rehearsals; there is a small charge for evening concerts.

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

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, you can have both. 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 Rhinall House, an 1886 classic Greek Revival house, you will stay at a historic Inn every night from the Middlebury College Inn 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 adults are \$145, child \$145, child \$145.

Reduced rates for all tours are available from Sept. 1 to

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