## Travel



AE Thursday, October 16, 1986

## 100(B,Wb,T,S,F)(10D +,R,W,G-10)

## Pigeon River Country is a Michigan gem

Most Michigan maps don't show the Pigeon River Country. Adventures who happen across it may not even suspect they have discovered something unusual unless they take the time to explore its depth. Then they know they have, indeed, found a gem of the highest quality.

Near the top-center of the "matter," which makes up the state's Lower Peninsula, it consists of roughly 500 square miles of mostly wild Jonal. The interior profits of about 150 square miles is more than Pe percent state-owned and has been decleated for use by the public under ratics allowing as many non-condition of use as possible. Closest to the four corners are Gaylotd, Indian Elver, Onaway and Atlanta, thus may be a support of the public under rate of the public wild and Elver, Onaway and Atlanta, thus may be a support of the public under loss of the loss of the loss of the public under loss of the public under loss of the public under loss of the Mississipp. Elver loss of the los

Three lovely rivers — the Pjgeon, Sturgeon and Black — oriģinate and include nearly their entire upstream watersheds within this forest. Nearby are headwaters of the famed Au Sable and Manistee rivers. The Black is frequently called the finest brook in the Lower Peninsula.

which swept across Michigan. Early visionary P.S. Loveloy, a member of the old Department of Conservation, prevailed upon his superiors to begin acquiring land within the tract. Over 13,000 acres was bought with hunting ilecuse money, while another 6,000 acres was tax-reverted to the state by owners who felt the land would always be worthless.

THE PRESENT Department of Natural Resources has followed Lo-vejoy's lead in buying land as it be-comes available in the PRC. Realiz-

vegoy's lead in buying land as it becomes available in the PICI. Realizing that "people pressure" can also
be a major factor in "loving a beautiful area to death," the DNR adopteds a number of restrictions.

Some forest trails have been
closed to motorized traffic, including
noisy snowmobiles. Enough twotracks remain open for the general
public to enjoy drives through the
forest and, for those who wish to explore farther, a number of hiking
and cross-country ski trails are
available for foot traffic.

It is thus possible for the lucky
motorist to eatch an occasional
glimpse of an elk or other large
wildlike right from the comfort of a
car. Best resolus, hough, come trails,
or the whole the caston.

September is the prime month for
elk watchers. The huge builts are
sounding their clartion calls as they
attempt to round up their harems of
cows. The smud hike harems of

and is guaranteed to make the bate stand up on your neck the first time the shift lid is heard.
Within the Pigeon filter Country are seven state forest campgrounds with most located on unspatied lakes or rivers. Several thy, secule sinkhole lakes are visible from some of the rustle trait roads. A motorial can drive 20 miles in any one direction without seeing a house, outlage, force or anything else manmade. There is no other place in Michigan's Lower Prolinsila where you can find that. It is a major part of this area's charm and fascination. The PIC IS LAI miles of the reason of the control of the

after they and seen season from our A decade of court buttles ensued here are resolved only after oil and gas interests were forced to operate in just a small portion of the southern forest under the stricters rules in the Chitad States Work is permitted only during periods deemed least disruptive to middlib breeding habits. Her mells must be screened by natural buriers to maintain the forest in seeming prise condition. It appears to be walking well, especially recently sine oil work has nearly stopped in the forest, due to the worldwide oil glut.

ears has nearly stopped in the forest, due to the worldwide oil glut.

EXTREMELY HEAVY spowfall
In the FPE closes many of the trail
roads in winter, although some are
kept plowed. This can be at fine time
to don cross-country wise for exploring a winter wonderland setting. For
the camera enthusiast, els, deer and
other widdlife often offer ideal lens
subjects in gargeous while settings.

Whatever the season, a visit settings.
Whatever the season, a visit world a
peaceful, quintern day elvilization.
For this, you can honk P.S. Lovejoy and others of visites.

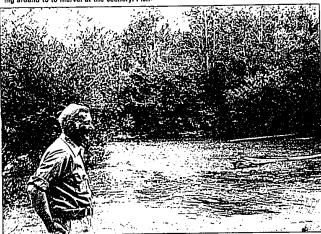
"Higeon River Country. The flip
Whil" is a new book by Gordon
Charles, author of tookur's travel
feature on this wild area in Michtions's northern Lower Peninsula.

It tells visitors what to see and
do there, as well as containing a
history of the 12-pear strupple to
save this special place from raination by oil and pas drillers. Ford
Kellum, former wildlife biologist.



Whether it be river viewing or nature hikes, PRC has a variety of appeals for the naturalist or the outdoor person. Many enjoy just driv-ing around to to merve! at the scenery. Fish-

ing, hunting, camping, swimming, boating, horseback riding on a fine trail system are all high priorities.



felt so strongly about the impending tragedy that he took early retrement from the Department of
flatural Resources in order to
have more freedom to usupe his
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Printed by Wm. B. Eerdmans
the Carly shows why this area is
so rital to the flature. A bull els on
the full-color cover, is symbolic of
what interests visitors to the "Big
Wild." The book is generously illustrated with photos taken in
the PRC, along with drawings
and maps.
Personally autographed copies
of the book are available by writing to: Gordon Charles, P.O. Boz
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