

## Finding the place to fit your taste

TRAVERSE CITY — Springtime is gorgeous in northern Michigan, with its blue lakes warming each day, trilliums carpeting the forest floor and morel mushrooms poking their wrinkly heads up through the leaves.

Tourists from all over the state travel to northwestern lower Michigan to take advantage of nature's rebirth, and this year they will find lodging to suit their every need.

Construction has been booming in the region straight through the mild winter and that means new motels, hotels and lodges.

The Hampton Inn and the Knight's Inn are two national chains that opened franchises in Traverse City this past winter. The Hampton Inn is located near the State Park on U.S. 31 in East Bay Township. They offer free local calls, all rooms for \$30 and satellite TV, among other amenities. The Knights Inn opened on a prime piece of property, just minutes from the heart of Traverse City's popular downtown.

The Grand Traverse Resort has been working on expansion, preparing for the 1987 Governors Conference in July. The landmark Tower is complete and open for business, featuring rooms, shops and the Trillium Restaurant and Nightclub. The Resort offers packages for businesses and families alike. Details are available by calling (616) 938-2100.

The Grand Traverse Convention and Tourist Bureau currently represents more than 50 primary hotels, motels and resorts in the region and can provide lodging assistance for anybody. Member facilities range in size from 10 to 250 units. The

Bureau can be reached at (616) 947-1120.

Popular places to stay in the springtime are the little family-owned resorts tucked into the woods, close to the morels and trilliums. The Ellis Lake Resort in Grawn, Leewood Resort on Bass Lake and Mac's Landing in Hoosier Valley are just a few.

Although the rivers are still chilly a few hardy souls may want to attempt canoeing — be careful not to tip over! Ranch Rudolf, on the Boardman River, is just 15 miles southeast of Traverse City, and guests can enjoy horseback riding and hiking if the water is too cold.

The region has three state parks available for campers ranging from the small and secluded Leelanau State Park near Northport, to the state's busiest park near

the National Music Camp in Interlochen. The Interlochen Park, the oldest in the state, is celebrating its 70th anniversary June 7. Traverse City's State Park is popular with fishermen this time of year, due to its closeness to the East arm of Grand Traverse Bay and all its salmon. There are also close to 20 private campgrounds in the area.

Bed and breakfast establishments are popular all over the country and northern Michigan is no exception. Approximately 17 B&B's operate in the region. Private cottages are also an option. Both daily and weekly rates are available and many cottages offer lakeside accommodations, boats, outdoor grills, picnic facilities and playgrounds.

### Lodging help offered

Michigan Reservation Service and Vacation Planning (MI-RSVP) is a centralized accommodation service designed to help travelers to the region with lodging.

The service, the only one of its kind in the area, is a privately-owned enterprise. They represent bed and breakfasts, cottages and resorts along with hotels and motels. They are located in downtown Traverse City.

Visitors can use MI-RSVP free of charge by calling the office at (616) 947-1166. MI-RSVP will make arrangements and confirm your reservations at the time of your call. Springtime hours are Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Free fishing, camping days set

Michigan's free fishing weekend, established by law last year, has been expanded for 1987.

To coincide with Sesquicentennial activities, a weekend of free fishing, boating and camping is being planned by the Department of Natural Resources during Natural Resources Week, June 7-14.

On the weekend of June 6-7, no fishing license will be required for anyone wishing to try their luck in Michigan waters.

In conjunction with the free fishing days, the DNR parks division will hold its annual State Park and Recreation Area Open House on June 7, during which the daily vehicle entry fee will be waived.

Also on June 7, the DNR waterways division has

agreed to allow free launching and mooring fees at the 11 state-owned/operated harbors and 26 state public access sites where fees are normally charged.

DNR's forest management division will allow free camping in all of its 150 state forest campgrounds over the June 6-7 weekend.

The main idea behind creating the free fishing weekend last year was to give non-anglers a chance to see what fishing is all about in hopes they would become "hooked" on the sport. That is exactly what happened, and many of the first-time fishermen from last year have become license buyers. It is hoped the same thing will occur with first-time campers and boaters.

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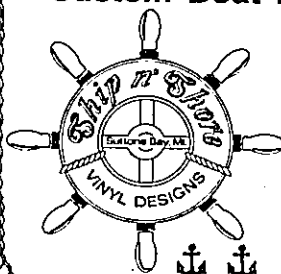
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