



MICKY JONES/photo

A sign outside Leelanau Wine Cellars sample room.



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A little bit closer to home, there's the Ann Arbor Farmers Market where Michigan products are featured every Saturday morning.

U.P. updates

West of the Porkie's, the Sky Diving Hill at Copper Peak, highest man-made jump of its kind in the Western Hemisphere, will be open to summer visitors. Ride an elevator, then climb a tightly enclosed metal stairway to a perch 20 floors up, for a super panorama that includes Minnesota on a clear day.

The view down the slide is something else, but you aren't required to make that exit. Nominal charge for chairlift and elevator ride. Mid-June to Labor Day. Black River Recreation Area north of Bessemer on County Road 513.

THE NEW MARITIME Museum at Whitefish Point, north of Paradise on Lake Superior is shaping up nicely, hopes to have its addition ready soon. Close to the tragic grave of the Edmund Fitzgerald and others, the lighthouse/museum displays are outstanding for their modest size. It is interesting to walk around even

when it's closed. Don't go to Tahquamenon Falls without this detour.

REMEMBER THE OLD Ojibwa Hotel in downtown Sault Ste. Marie? Overlooking the locks, it's been refurbished from dining room to guest rooms and reopened under new management; a sparkling addition to Michigan's list of charming small hotels.

PRESS ON REGARDLESS Road Rally, the muddy, grueling, noisy fun auto race that draws a bigger competition every year, is scheduled for Oct. 24 to 25. More than 70 professional rally drivers from all over the U.S. will fight their way through seven counties on 250-500 miles of State Forest Road in an endurance test of cars and drivers. The start draws hundreds of racing fans. It's held in downtown Houghton. Check ahead with the Upper Peninsula Travel Assoc. 908-774-5480.

Duo celebration

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bags to and from the dock. No other tipping is allowed, according to the management. Fudgies who are not guests are charged \$3 for the privilege of visiting the hotel, deductible

from the buffet lunch and not applicable to evening dinners.

The Grand Hotel is open this year from May 13 to Nov. 1. The rest of the year, the island belongs to the 500 local residents.

Travelers take a taste of Michigan

By Iris Jones
special writer

I interviewed Mark Wu of the Michigan Department of Agriculture in Hong Kong last fall. Mark had just opened the department's Asian office, mandated to sell products grown in Michigan.

His office shelves were lined with familiar product names: Gerber, Squirt, Sanders, Mid-America Potato Co., Rocky Top farms plus vegetables and fruits like tart cherries and blueberries.

I learned that the Japanese love our blueberries and cherries, that expensive Asian markets are starting to carry our meats and that we have just started exploring that huge buying population.

That started me thinking: how many people in Michigan are aware of the diversity of Michigan products and how many places could we tour while traveling.

OBVIOUSLY WE don't fully respect our home-grown products. Edward O'Keefe III, vice president of

Chateau Grand Traverse winery near Traverse City, put it another way:

"It is easier to market our wine outside where they don't have a preconceived idea of Michigan wine. Our own people think of Michigan wine as soda pop wine."

I have visited many of the Michigan wineries, and some of their products are very tasty. The risings from Chateau Grand Traverse have won several awards. The London Chop House is serving their 1985 Paul Mann Vineyards semidry Johannisberg Riesling. The Trillium wine from Good Harbor Vineyards on Lake Leelanau is served in most restaurants in the northern L.P.

YOU CAN TOUR many of these vineyards: Warner, Frontenac and St. Julian in Paw Paw; Good Harbor and Boskydel vineyards at Lake Leelanau; a brand new place called White Cascade in Holly; Chateau Grand Traverse on Old Mission Peninsula; Leelanau Wine Cellars in Omena; Tabor Hill in Buchanan; Penn Valley in Fennville; Mawby in

Suttons Bay; Fink in Dundee; Lemon Creek in Berrien Springs; Peterson and Sons in Kalamazoo.

MICHIGAN FOOD comes in many tastes. Go to the Green River Trout Farm in Manacola and try some dried morel mushrooms, smoked fish or smoked turkey breasts while your kids are catching their own trout. If you see a big happy-looking man who looks like Polstaff, that's owner food-lover Ken Weber.

If you want some pesto to go with it, check out Fox Hill Farm in Palmyra, especially during the Oh Boy Basil festival, which is a sort of pesto cookoff. Otherwise just buy herbs, vinegars and other seasonings.

Michigan grows fabulous cherries, sweet and tart. The sweet are harvested usually from about July 11 through the first week in August. Try a farm market like Underwoods on the Old Mission Peninsula in Traverse City or Manitou's near Leland.

In the Upper Peninsula, especially around the Keweenaw Peninsula, check out the Elm River Sugar Bush in Tolvala, where they will sell you

maple sugar in a wooden box hand painted by a local artist.

OR DROP IN on Barb Foley at the Thimbleberry Shop, otherwise known as the Last Frontier Gift Shop, in Copper Harbor and see if she's got some thimbleberry jam. They used to sell it everywhere, but the Department of Agriculture has limited sales outlets.

On your way through St. Ignace, stop at The Galley restaurant for their whitefish livers; food lovers say they don't taste like either whitefish or liver.

The Mackinac Patisserie Shop in Mackinac city is an on-your-way-home stop; or take the ferry to the Mackinac Island fudge shops.

Back in the Grand Traverse area, try the marvelous jams, chocolate covered raspberries and other calorie-busters at Rocky Top Farms in Ellsworth. Also the jams, relishes and other goodies at Bluff Gardens in Harbor Springs.

There's lots more folks. Write for the Michigan Specialty Food Guide from the Michigan Travel Bureau.

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We're helping almost 600,000 people save for their sunny days in Florida, and they care.

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