

# Travel



Thursday, May 14, 1987 O&amp;E

(C)118

## Duo birthday: Michigan, Grand Hotel

**T**HE INDIANS called it Michigami, Land of Big Waters. For thousands of years they paddled canoes through the Great Lakes, stopping along the 3,000 mile shoreline that now defines the state of Michigan. The Europeans came on the same water highways: missionaries and fur traders in canoes big enough to carry home the beaver pelts, French and British soldiers in sailing ships rigged for battle.

By the time Michigan became a state, in January 1837, the Land of Big Waters, and especially the Straits of Mackinac that separate Lake Michigan and Lake Huron, had many stories to tell: about missions built under the flag of New France, wars fought between the French and British forces, Indian massacres at Fort Michilimackinac, on the northern tip of the Lower Peninsula. The British had built a new fort across the straits on Mackinac Island, and John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company had become an island neighbor.

MACKINAC ISLAND, two miles wide and three miles long, is pronounced "mack-in-ay," just like all the other places with similar names nearby: Mackinaw City, the Mackinac Bridge, Old Fort Mackinac. They were all clumsy French or English attempts to say the Indian word Michilimackinac, "the great turtle."

Mackinac Island was a peaceful place when the tribes chose it as holy ground in which to bury their braves, and later when they met there to parlay for furs. Michigan was a state, and tourists had replaced the warriors and traders of old when three railway companies, led by Cornelius Vanderbilt, opened a luxurious hotel in 1887 to entice wealthy travelers to ride their trains north.

The passenger trains are gone but the Grand Hotel still stands in white



one-of-a-kind traveler

**Iris Jones**

contributing travel editor

**A special three-part series by travel writer Iris Jones on Michigan's sesquicentennial begins with today's travel column.**

colonaded splendor amid 500 acres of lawns and woodlands overlooking the sea. The Grand Hotel celebrates its 100th birthday this year, along with the sesquicentennial of Michigan, so there will be a lot of fireworks in the sky above the Straits of Mackinac in 1987. The hotel's centennial is July 10, but birthday events go on all year.

When you leave your car behind and take the 30-minute ferry ride to Mackinac Island from either Mackinaw City, in the Lower Peninsula, or St. Ignace, in the Upper Peninsula, you will see things those early travelers didn't see. Freighters glide by on their way to Detroit and Chicago. Pleasure boats make white shapes against the water. What the fur traders would notice most, however, is the five-mile-long Mackinac Bridge, one of the longest suspension bridges in the world, connecting the two peninsulas of Michigan.

THE 20TH CENTURY is visible around you, but when the ferry lands at the village dock on Mackinac Island, you walk the gangplank back into the 19th century. The coachman from the Grand Hotel waits for you on his antique opera wagon, behind plumed horses. Private cars are not allowed on the island, so you will clip-clap past Victorian store fronts, with other travelers cycling or riding horses nearby.

When the carriage swings uphill to the port cocher of the Grand, you

will see the hotel as generations of families saw it during the days of the luxury lake steamers: summer people lazing in rocking chairs along the great porch, with its three-story Grecian columns. Locals argue about whether the porch is 660 or 680 feet long, but nobody accepts anyone else's measurement.

The white clapboard building is familiar to moviegoers; the last feature film made there was "Somewhere in Time," released in 1980, with Christopher "Superman" Reeves. Now, as at the turn of the century, geraniums spill over the railings, decorate the grand lobby and bloom on the drapes and bedspreads of many of the 286 rooms.

THERE ARE TENNIS courts, shuffleboard, croquet greens, swimming pools and a newly renovated nine-hole golf course on the grounds, but for the first 24 hours you will be too overwhelmed by the great white clapboard hostelry, and the 19th-century life it represents, to notice.

There are many other things to do on Mackinac Island, of course, and you will do them on foot, on a bicycle, on a horse, or on a carriage tour. You will see the natural rock formations at Arch Rock, where Indian legend says that the Great Spirit entered the world, and a rock tepee called Sugar Loaf, where he settled.

You will wander through Old Fort Mackinac, built on a bluff above the harbor in 1780 and now a living his-



There's no other way to describe it — it's simply a Grand Hotel.

tory museum, and explore the Stuart House Museum of the Astor Fur Post, circa 1817. You will visit the Victorian shops of the village, eat fudge and get used to the idea that you, like other tourists, are known to the locals as "fudgies."

You will probably linger over meals because your Grand Hotel room rate (\$115 to \$175, per person, double occupancy) includes breakfast and dinner, both multi-course meals. Your bill will also include 18 percent for gratuities, four percent state tax, and a one-time charge of \$2.50 per person for bringing your

Please turn to Page 10

**WOOD DECKS**  
Wolmanized • Redwood • Cedar  
Residential • Commercial  
Specializing in Hot Tub Installation  
**526-1629**

**MYRTLE BEACH'S footloose & fancy sprees.**  
Live it up with our carefree, affordable condominium vacations. Occupancy of one, two, or three bedrooms. Let us spread out and relax. Attractive weekly rates and a superb golf course. Make our choice for our free brochure.  
**1-800-845-0837**  
(In S.C. 826-7457)

**Barfoot Vacations**  
CENTURY 21  
REAL ESTATE  
3425 NORTH RIVER HIGHWAY  
MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA 29577

**EXPO 88**  
Goes To  
Australia INC. Hawaii  
• Toronto Departure  
• 2 Weeks  
• Book by May 31, 1987 for \$2688 Cdn.  
• 10% Deposit  
Required at Booking  
For Further Info Call  
**WOODSIDE TRAVEL**  
660 Ouellette Ave. • Windsor  
**964-3500**

**GET OUT OF THE DARK.**  
The Consumer Information Catalog will enlighten you with helpful consumer information in a free 64-page booklet.  
Consumer Information Center  
Dept. 10, Pueblo, Colorado 81009

**SANDERS TRAVEL TICKET CENTER**  
**EUROPE SPECIALS**  
Europe • USA  
Air/Rail  
**PACKAGE SPECIALS**  
MON.-FRI., 9-5:30  
SAT. 10-2  
**855-2620**  
28230 Orchard Lk.  
Farmington Hills 48018

Twice a week is better

**Come Back with Me... to Mackinac!**

### The Michigan I Call Home

Celebrate Michigan's birth by taking a voyage into our past. Long before we became a state, Europeans and Indians alike treasured the land called Mackinac for its natural wealth and beauty. Today their experiences are alive again at the historic sites of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission. Come back to Mackinac, and join the celebration!

Colonial Fort Michilimackinac (1715-81) lets you sample the sights and sounds experienced by our first settlers. Old Mill Creek (1780-1839) and its historic sawmill take you back to when Michigan's industrial might began.

Historic Fort Mackinac (1780-1895) uses roaring cannons and blazing muskets in reuniting your family with America's military past.

Come back to Mackinac, and join the celebration!

For further information, write or call:  
Mackinac Island State Park Commission  
P.O. Box 170-3  
Mackinac Island, MI 49757  
(800) 847-3128

### ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS on affordable Florida Retirement Living

InterCoastal Communities features its 6th and newest community, Continental Country Club in Central Florida, offering you a carefree lifestyle in a distinctive manufactured home community where you own your land. Championship golf course, restaurant, lounge and much more, in Leesburg, Lake County, Florida, known as the bass capital.

7:00 p.m., Thursday, May 14  
Hyatt Regency Fairlane Town Center  
Dearborn, Michigan

For more information, call TOLL FREE 1-800-525-0050  
Bring this ad with you and receive a special gift.

**G'DAY**  
THINKING OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND?  
**THE TRAVEL AGENT IS.**  
Join us for a 20 day Down Under Trip leaving **October 20, 1987**  
in association with  
**SWAIN AUSTRALIAN TOURS**  
call Jack Cotton  
**The Travel Agent**  
4080 W. Maple  
Corner of Telegraph • Birmingham  
**642-2840**

**Club Med at your American Express Travel Agency**  
Whether it's a quick trip or an extended vacation, let us make all your travel arrangements.  
Stop in or call:  
**DETROIT/REN. CEN.**  
**259-5030**  
185 S. WOODWARD, BIRMINGHAM 642-3550/DEARBORN, PARKLANE TOWER 336-4200

**Follow your dream, not the beaten path.**  
No matter where your vacation dreams take you, AAA Travel Agency can get you there. We're Michigan's largest full-service travel agency.  
Scandinavia 14 days from \$768\*  
Alaska Cruise One week from \$1,197.00\*  
\*Per person, based on double occupancy.  
**TRAVEL agency**  
You can't do better than all A's.  
Birmingham AAA Branch 275 Hunter Blvd. 433-8211  
Troy-Rochester AAA Branch 45 E. Long Lake Rd. 879-2030  
Lathrup Village AAA Branch 26026 Southfield Rd. 557-5300  
Pontiac AAA Branch 1375 N. Oakland Blvd. 666-2600  
Farmington AAA Branch 33133 W. 12 Mile Rd. 553-3700