Travel

Duo birthday: Michigan, Grand Hotel

HE INDIANS called it Michigami, Land of Big Waters. For thousands of years they padded cannes 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 cances big enough to carry home the beaver pelts, French and British soldiers in sailing ships rigged for battle.

By the time

and British soldiers in sailing ships rigged for battle.

By the time Michigan became a state, in Jahuary 1837, the Land of Big Waters, and Michigan of a series had many stories to tell: about missions built under the flag of New France, wars flought between the Franch and British forces, Indian massacres at Fort Michillimackinac, on the northern Up of the Lower on the northern Up of the Lower new fort across the straits on Mackinac Island, and John Jacob Astories. American Fur Company had become an island neighbor.

MACKINAC ISLAND, two miles wide and three miles long, is protinack-in-awa, the state of the control of the co

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 there railway companies, led by Cor-nellus Vanderbilt, opened a luxuri-ous Island Hotel in 1887 to entice wealthy travelers to ride their trains north.

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.

collonaded splendor amid 500 acres of lawns and woodlands overlooking the sea. The Grand flotel 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 50-minute ferry ride to Mackinac Island from either Mackinac Island from the Wille Samper on the long for the William of Michigan.

THE 20TH CENTURY is visible around you, but when the ferry lands around you, but when the ferry lands around you, but when the ferry lands around you walk the gangplant back into the 18th century. The coachman from the Grand Hotel waits for you nis antique opera wagon, behind plumed horses, Private cars are not allowed on the island, so you will clip-clop past Victorian store fronts, with other travelers cycling or riding horses nearby.

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

will see the hotel as generations of families saw it during the days of the inxury lake steamers: summer people lazing in rocking chairs along the great porch, with its three-story Great no clumns. Locals argue about whether the porch is 650 or 850 feet long, but nobody accepts anyone else's measurement.

The white clapboard building is familiar to moviegoers; the last fear there film made there was "Somowhere in Time," released in 1980 where in Time, "released in 1980 where in Time," released in 1980 over the railings, decented the grand lobby and bloom on the drapes and bed-spreads of many of the 268 rounts.

THERE ARE TENNIS courts,

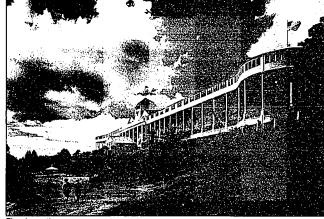
THERE ARE TENNIS courts, shuffleboard, croquel greens, swin-ming pools and a newly renovated nine-hole golf course on the grounds but for the first 24-hours you will be too overwhelmed by the great white clapboard hostlery, and the 19th-century life it represents, to notice. There are many other things to do on Mackinac Island, of course, and out will do them on foot, on a bicycle, on a horse, or on carriage to you will do them on foot, on a bicycle, on a horse, or on carriage to relate the court of the cou

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

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

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The Michigan I Call Home

Celebrate Michigan's birth by taking a woyage 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 ngain at the historic sites of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission. Come back to Mackinac, and join the celebration!

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

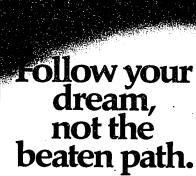
Historic Fort Mackinac (1780-1895) uses roating cannons and blating muskets in reuniting your family with America's military past,

Come back to Mackinac, and join the celebration!

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