

# STREET SCENE

## Inside Wheelin' along

Pick a street . . . any street. You're sure to find someone cruisin' by on a bicycle. Bicycling is a favorite summer pastime not only for the fun of it, but for the physical fitness aspect. American Youth Hostels has cashed in on the pastime with bicycle "clubs" that meet weekly for jaunts on two wheels. See Page 6D.

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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# BEAVER ISLAND

## 'America's Emerald Isle'

By M.B. Dillon  
staff writer

Tranquility, natural beauty, solitude, simplicity and old-fashioned friendliness — these are some of the things Beaver Islanders like best about their Lake Michigan home.

They're also the reasons vacationers, looking to get away from it all, fall in love with the place. If you can't relax here, there's just no hope for you.

Twenty miles northwest of Charlevoix, Beaver Island is 13 miles long and six miles wide — the largest island in Lake Michigan.

Largely forested, Beaver boasts seven inland lakes, 41 miles of beaches, 100 miles of scenic roads and numerous hiking trails. Fishermen and hunters will tell you the island is blessed with a rich variety of animal and plant life.

There are wonderful restaurants; fascinating museums; a biological station; marinas; lakeside campgrounds that operate on the honor system; delightful shops with hardwood floors and wooden screen doors; even an antique toy store where a note invites you to leave the money on the counter if Mary isn't around.

Islanders are proud of their quality schools, and their newest asset — a library funded chiefly by Land's End retailer Gary Comer.

Sunsets on Beaver Island are something to behold.

Star-gazers are in heaven here.

Beaver is the largest of an 11-island archipelago that from the air "looks like a scattering of emeralds strewn by the hand of a playful giant against the deep blue of Lake Michigan," suggested one travel writer. Those en route to one of Beaver's two small airports are free to judge for themselves.

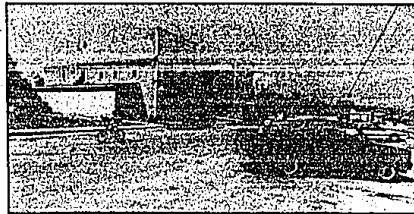
VISITORS opting for the 2 1/4-hour ferry ride (\$21 round trip) from Charlevoix are treated to eye-pleasing sights as well. The boat docks in a bay lush with evergreens and sandy beaches.

A sign reading "Cead Mille Failte" (100,000 welcomes in Irish) gives visitors their first clue that beaver dams notwithstanding, Beaver Island is a friendly, Irish place.

It's not unusual for newly-arrived city slickers to be offered a ride to their motel or cottage by a passer-by. If they accept, travelers may learn how rare it is for an islander to remove the keys from the ignition. Local wisdom has it that that's a good way to lose them.

One of the nicest customs on Beaver is the wave, and not the kind you do at Tiger Stadium. You can bet that whether you're on foot or on wheels, an islander will never pass you on the road without waving hello.

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An afternoon rush hour on Beaver Island's main street, the King's Highway consisted of a pickup truck and a child on a bicycle.



Archie La Freniere, Beaver's "unofficial governor-general," swatted plenty of flies while presiding over the Shamrock Bar for 37 years.

## Island has a colorful beginning

By M.B. Dillon  
staff writer

When it comes to colorful Michigan island history, Beaver Island has a lock on bragging rights.

Need convincing? Visit the island museum, better known as the Old Mormon Print Shop. On the National Register of historic places, the museum is staffed by Beaver Island Historical Society volunteers who'll confirm it in a minute. (They'll also invite you to help yourself to a paperback or two from a shelf on the front porch, as long as you bring it back, trade it for a book of your own, or make a small donation.)

Beaver was formed nearly 10,000 years ago when a stubborn limestone lip scraped rocks and sediment from the belly of a passing glacier.

Little is known about Beaver's first Indian inhabitants, but it's said Ojibways were around when the first white trappers and traders arrived.

Christianity may have come to Beaver Island as early as the 1600s. Bishop Frederic Baraga built the island's first church in 1832.

The only kingdom ever in existence in the United States was founded in 1847 by self-coronated James Jesse Strang, leader of a Mormon colony on Beaver.

By 1850, Mormons outnumbered the "gentiles," mainly Irish, and by 1852, non-Mormons were crowded off the island.

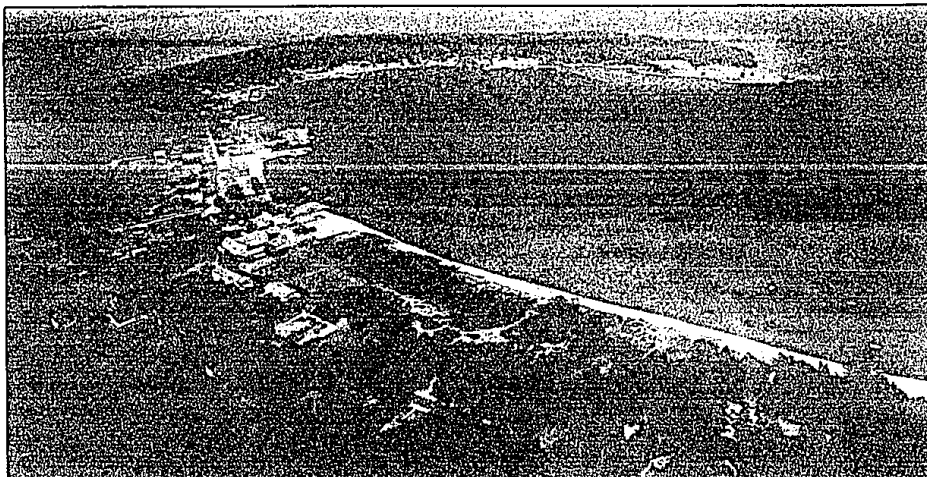
In the Old Mormon Print Shop, the red-headed Strang started the first daily newspaper north of Grand Rapids — the Daily Northern Islander.

A flamboyant lawyer, Strang also served in the state legislature. He appropriated land on the island, contended he received divine commands and practiced polygamy.

photos by STEVE CANTRELL/staff photographer

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From his plane, Beaver Island's Roy Elsworth — realtor, Erin Motel owner, pilot, forestry management expert and elk hunter — can enjoy the view of Beaver Harbor and the town of St. James.



## Warp Factor

Karlos Barney



"J.P. asked who wanted to go up the corporate ladder, and naturally, I raised my hand."

## Once upon a time in Sveti Stefan

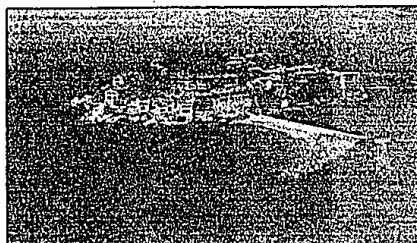
By Iris Sanderson Jones  
contributing travel editor

Q: Four of us are going to Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, on a one-week tour, then staying another week on our own. We plan to spend a few days sailing and a few days land touring. The literature keeps referring to a hotel, or an island, called Sveti Stefan. What's the story on Sveti Stefan?

A: If you like sea tales, you will love the story of Sveti Stefan on the Adriatic coast of what is now southern Yugoslavia. The story begins in the 15th century.

The walled city of Dubrovnik sat in its jeweled setting beside the sea 65 miles to the north. The walled city of Budva sat above the sea six miles north. The Turks controlled the Adriatic coast 40 miles south of the island in what is now Albania and made regular forays into the area.

It was a dangerous place to live, so the people who lived on the rocky mountainsides of Montenegro decided to build a wall around a tiny rock island as a safe place to go when the fighting started. The island was just offshore, so they could walk across at low tide. Today, that entire walled island village is the Hotel Sveti Stefan.



The island hotel of Sveti Stefan, situated south of Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, was once a fishing village.

Before I tell you more, let me tell you how to get there by the scenic route. You will have toured the beautiful seaside city of Dubrovnik. Drive south along the scenic coast, with a stop for water sports, history and browsing in Cavtat.

This whole Adriatic coast is popular with European tourists, who come to sail, explore the living re-

mains of ancient history, enjoy the sunshine and sun on the beautiful beaches. You can pick your beach style — rock, spa-quality mud, sand, pebble, nude, whatever.

There is a huge double bay called the Gulf of Kotar between Dubrovnik and Sveti Stefan. Spend at least a day driving around it, stopping at Herceg Novi and other towns.

DRIVE TO the top of the mountain for a spectacular view and tour the ancient city of Kotar, wrapped in a wall from sea to mountain top and back again. Drive across the mountains to the walled city of Budva and six miles on to Sveti Stefan. You can take a ferry across the gulf, but you would miss all that wonderful touring.

You first see Sveti Stefan from a hill above the Adriatic, an island of red roofs, trimmed around the edges by a stone wall. When you turn down off the Adriatic Highway and pass the summer homes (now hotels) of the former Yugoslav royal

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