

Huron River displays its wonders

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In my kayak, above the drop, adrenalin was pumping, my mouth dry. We had decided to run the far left channel. The sun was dancing on the water, making it difficult to see the entry spot I had memorized while scouting. A moment later a small cloud passed in front of the sun, and I started forward.

A tongue of smooth water, then the boat and I dropped down to hit the first wave. A boulder wash on the left and right, but my line was good and I slipped between them. Big waves washed over the bow and up into my lap. The bridge abutment came up fast, and I quickly moved the boat to the right. I cleared the bridge abutment, then more big waves. These tapered off and I was through, following the still swift current

around the bend past Delhi Park. Coming into Ann Arbor, we knew we were in a college town when we came upon the University of Michigan rowing team practicing on the river. We floated by the huge U-M medical complex, which seemed to loom over the river. We passed by many parks, with the sounds of people, not quite visible above the banks, playing baseball and soccer. The river ran fast through town, with an occasional rap or riffle. Helped by the current, we raced by a jogger who was running on a path next to the river and heading downstream.

AFTER ANN ARBOR the river passes into a more industrial area, losing much of its scenic quality. There is a portage at the Peninsula Paper Company plant. Beyond

downtown Ypsilanti there is the huge Ford Motor Co. plant where the I-94 expressway crosses overhead.

Three Metroparks follow. The country again was wooded, and the river meandered. The weather had turned much warmer, with spring wildflowers along the riverbank. As this section is very close to Metropark Airport we watched the jets taking off, one passing overhead every couple of minutes.

After passing under the I-75 expressway we entered a marshy area. We saw dozens of wading birds, white egrets and blue herons. We were nearing Lake Erie and the end of our trip.

We drifted under the Jefferson Street bridge and the waters spread out. A few barrier islands were ahead. Beyond was the lake,

wide and empty to the horizon. To our right, down the coast, was the Fermi II nuclear power plant. Our final takeout was at the parking lot on the left, at the Point Mouillee State Game Area.

The Huron is our hometown river. Each section had its surprises, and it was incredibly varied. It was more than we expected. More rapids, more beautiful, longer and more challenging. I would like to go back to Proude Lake and float its length once again.

Eric Malloy is a freelance writer from West Bloomfield. He works for Detroit Testing Laboratory, Inc. in Warren as the vice president of administration and development. Eric has canoeed for many years and enjoys other outdoor activities.

Tourists love Taj

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AS THE tour bus approached, and the Taj came into view, we saw the moon shining on the distant dome. It was somebody from Lansing, Mich., who first noticed the black cloud moving rapidly toward the moon.

The bus stopped. The first photographer got off. We knew we were in trouble when he started to run, with his cameras banging against his chest. We were too late. By the time the bus was empty the dark cloud

had covered the moon and the Taj stood in deep night shade.

The wise traveler knows how to survive when fate outwits his travel plans. We didn't photograph the Taj by moonlight, but we brought home a story to bore our dinner table friends for years.

Most of us will never see the Taj, but half of travel is a dream, so I plan to drive south this week and see if I can find a little moonlight over the Taj Mahal in Toledo.

Resort city offers art galleries

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of the longest boardwalks on the Great Lakes on an exceptionally beautiful waterfront area.

The S.S. Keewatin, the last of the classic Great Lakes steamships, is now a maritime museum which caters to tourists curious about Michigan's past. This coal burning, 350-foot-long vessel welcomes visitors and school children alike who want to learn about the history of sailing.

Some of the loveliest campgrounds in Michigan await visitors to Saugatuck. The West Wind KOA on I-96 exit 41 provides sandy beach-

es, plenty of shade trees, wooded tenting and good security. Tennis courts, playgrounds, golf, antique flea markets and fruit picking all go with the campsite.

Gleason's Marina offers canoeing trips on the Kalamazoo River. Year-round, hot air ballooning gives the adventurous a chance to look down on the tranquil beauty of the town. Three golf courses, one of which is the oldest in the state and another, a championship course, lures hundreds of golf devotees.

For more information, write to Saugatuck/Douglas Convention and Visitors Bureau, P.O. Box 23, Saugatuck, 49453 or call (616) 857-5801.

Lake Michigan storm entertains campers

By Ellen Grier
Special writer

A hot day in mid-July lulls the body into feelings of lethargy and even boredom.

The day was done. Campers had settled into semi-wooded campsites backing from the bluffs of Lake Michigan at Orchard Beach State Park near Manistee. Fires had been built and meals had been eaten. The camaraderie of camping had invaded the grounds and there was a show beginning on site.

It was free, wholesome entertain-

ment for all ages. No need to worry about getting a good seat; there was plenty of room for everyone.

The stage was Lake Michigan. The clouds were the curtains. The energetic charges of a cold front meeting a warm front were gathering strength. The choreographer was giving last minute instructions to the leading roles. This was going to be some kind of show.

A crowd had gathered. Some of the audience leaned on the railings of the long staircase reaching down to the great lake. Others chose the sandy beach as the waves frolicked

with their feet. Voices raised in chorus of impending wonder. The production had begun.

As the lightning dazzled its way into the hearts of the crowd, thunder came charging with haste to its presence. As if the sky of night was cracking, the lightning blazed forth in flashes of glory.

No one bolt had a starring role, but the crowd did have favorites. The pyrotechnics continued as the storm rolled in. We watched in awe as the spectacular actors of nature displayed their talents. These were no amateurs. The audience sounded

Environmentalists are not a threat

(AP) — Tourist businesses must become leaders in defending the environment and avoid merely making a fast buck while the market is hot, a former Canadian tourism minister said at a recent travel conference.

"Many people in the tourism industry continue to see environmentalists and environmentalism as a threat to growth and to progress and profit," Tom McMillan told the Pacific Asia Travel Association.

"There are too many seasonal operations in the tourism industry whose planning horizons are scarcely broader than a few weeks that they are open for business each year. The object is to cash in on the market while it is hot and damn the consequences."

"The impact of business decisions must be measured on even longer time scales in order to avoid the more serious planning mistakes," he told the travel conference.

Many operators who have turned environmentalists now "appreciate that a clean environment does not require anyone to wear a hair shirt or to enter debtor's prison," McMillan said.

"You and I and industry must match the demands on the environ-

ment with nature's ability to cure it. The greatest challenge facing the tourism industry in the years ahead will be to show (itself) and the world how to do just that," he said.

About 1,500 delegates from airlines, hotel chains, travel agencies and local government tourism bodies met in 35 countries are attending the 17,000-member association's 39th annual conference, believed to be the largest of its kind ever held in North America.

The gathering began with a one-hour show that was sponsored by Canadian Airlines and designed to lure tourists to Canada. Subjects ranged from lasso-wielding Calgary cowboys and the Quebec Winter Carnival's jolly Bonhomme to high-stepping Klondike can-can dancers and Ukrainian dancers from Winnipeg.

"I thought it was great," said Salma Khalil, an editorial assistant for the Straits Times newspaper in Singapore. "It really showed me what Canada was about."

Tourism has become increasingly important for Canada in the last decade, ranking third in government figures among exports behind motor vehicles and auto parts and ahead of

forestry, communications, petroleum, grain and natural gas.

Tourism generated more than \$24 billion (Canadian) in revenue in 1988 and provided jobs for about 630,000.

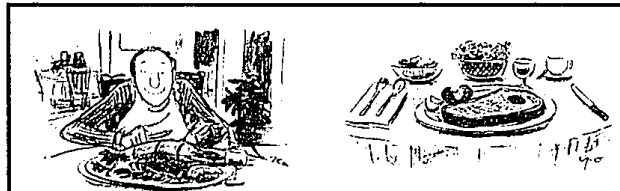
Tom Hockin, minister of state for tourism and small businesses, told delegates the Canadian government was making plans to refund the 7 percent goods and services tax to foreign tourists who travel to Canada.

Tourists will be able to get rebates by sending receipts for hotel rooms, souvenirs, tour guides, transportation and other expenses to Ottawa or to duty-free shops that remain to be selected, Hockin said.

"You don't have to spend any money in the duty-free shop. They're just going to act as a rebater," Hockin said in an interview.

In addition, tour operators will be able to claim rebates on pre-arranged tour packages on behalf of their clients, Hockin said.

He said the government hopes the rebate plan will give Canada an edge over other nations in attracting tourists.



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Cedar Point frolic

Cedar Point amusement theme park in Sandusky, Ohio has planned its most exciting roller coaster-of-the-year yet.

Heading the list of seasonal improvements this year is Disaster Transport, a futuristic space adventure that features an enclosed roller coaster.

Other additions to the park include the Soak City water park which houses Tadpole Town, a children's water playground and the Main Stream, an inner tube river ride.

A miniature four by four truck ride in Kiddieland is another addition.

Sandcastle Suites, a \$4 million all-suites hotel on the northern tip of the Cedar Point Peninsula is scheduled to open June 29.

Several other changes include Jungle Larry's Safari addition of a Golden Tabby Bengal tiger, one of only 13 in the world of the rare breed.

A new show at Oceana will feature four dolphins and two sea lions in "Oceana Now!", an educational look at animal physiology and training.

Admission to Cedar Point is \$19.95 for those 48 inches and taller. For those under 48 inches, \$10.95 and senior citizen admission is \$12.75.

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