decoy will hang in the water like a real fish would.

The decoy is perhaps four and

a-half inches long.
"These," Nick says, spreading an array of several decoys," are made by

the fishingest people I ever did see!"
They're made by various members of the Veihl family, mostly of the Onaway area. A father, five sons, a grandson and a first cousin all carve. Their individual styles are distinctive, and Nick points out the differences, Nearby, in a large fish tank, a

needlenose gar pike and a northern pike fish lazily as bubbles float upward. The bubbling aerator adds a soothing rhythm to the room as two cats snooze and two dogs nose a visitor's hand, looking for attention.

The rows of decoys on the shelves are a cross section of time, linking native hunters of yesterday to ice fishermen of today. They might be considered one of the first functional art forms, as each was carved for one's individual use and to provide food for the family. The shapes, forms, and patterns have been passed from father to son throughout the years

These days, a newsletter with Nick as editor, links decoy carvers and collectors. The American Fish Decny Association was formed last year and the newsletter is entering its second year of production. The group held a

show and sale at Midland last autumn in conjunction with an exhibition Beneath the Ice: The Art of the Fish Decoy which was shown at the Midland Center for the Arts. That exhibition is currently at the Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 Wells St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin. (414-278-2720). It runs through March 18.

The American Fish Decoy Association plans two shows in 1991. The first, April 20-21, will be held at the Ramada Heritage Center in Southgate and the second, Oct. 5-6. will be held at the Airport Hilton in Grand Rapids.

For more information on either, to become a member of the AFDA, or to just talk about fishing or decoys. contact Dominick Torello III at Nick's Wood Shop, 134 Michigan Ave., Au Gres MI 48703. Telephone 517-876-7075.

Durothy Webster, a former newspaper and magazine publisher, is an artist/photographer living in Northern Michigan. She frequents out of way spots researching lighthouses and old general stores to paint and photograph. Her Native American heritage adds another dimension to her interest.

Ice fishing: The great escape

January in Michigan ushers in the beginning of another ice fishing season to an estimated 280,000 hardy and adventurous anglers. Imagine being able to get away--far, far away--from everyday pressures, jaugling telephones, hectic meetings, and office routine.

Sound good to you? Believe it? lee anglers are able to experience such great escapes on a regular basis.

Whether seeking out panfish such as bluegills or yellow perch, northern pike or walleye, ice fishing is

Michigan angling adventure at its best Although fully three-quarters of the 2 million-plus ice fishing days Michigan anglers expend each year are spent on the state's inland waters, excellent angling is also available on the scores of frozen Great Lakes' bays and inlets ranging Michigan's peninsulas.

lee fishing's a particularly great way to get outdoors and enjoy the cold-weather months. Best of all perhaps, the ice angling devotee need not invest large sums of money in conder to eatch fish and have fun-

Here's a short list of this winter's Michigan ice fishing events

--Jan. 25-27, Coloma and Watervhet, Winterfest, call 616-468-3191.

--Jan. 25-27, Hillsdale, Tip-Up Fishing Festival, 517-439-1304. - Jan. 26-27, Houghton Lake, Tip-Up Town USA, 800-292-9071.

-- Jan. 26-Feb. 16, Saginaw, Shiver on the River, 517-776-9701 -Feb. 1-3, East Tawas, Perchville

USA, 517-362-8643. -Feb. 9-17, Pentwater,

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Ice-Eishing Confest intrascougilso. Feb. 17-18, Baraga, Festival on Ice 30%5324, 444.

«Feb. 26 March 4, Port Austin. Winter Camival, 517-738-7600.

-March 9, Marenisco, Ice-Fishing Jamboree, 906-842-4535

Write the Michigan DNR's Fisheries Division at Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909 to obtain a copy of a Michigan Ice Fishing Handbook full of helpful limis. It's free for the



joying the winter season with a heavenly view of Michigan's Crystal White Beauty

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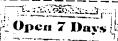
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