

# MSU Archaeologists Uncover Historic Lore

Ships longer than two foot-hall fields now glide under the mighty Mackinac Bridge that joins Michigan's two peninsulas but in its shadow, where birch bark canoes once landed, archaeologists literally are turning back the sands of time.

They're uncovering two centuries of drifting sand to reconstruct a time of adventure, of treachery, of intrigue, of capitalism—a time when the Straits of Mackinac was inhabited by voyageurs, French and British soldiers, fur traders and trappers, the Chippewa and Ottawa Indians.

The site is Fort Michilimackinac, (that's Mich-ill-mack-in-ah), at Mackinac City at the top of Michigan's lower peninsula.

Under the direction of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, archaeologists

from Michigan State University are rebuilding the fort as it was 200 years ago when it was a key western outpost for the lucrative fur trade.

Restoration began in 1959 and painstaking excavation has uncovered more than 300,000 artifacts that help tell the story of the fort and its inhabitants. Coupled with the Fort Michilimackinac findings and research in Canadian and English

archives, the archaeologists have pieced together precisely the plans of the fort, its buildings and the village outside its gates.

THE FORT was founded in 1715 by the French as both a fur outpost and jumping-off spot for further Great Lakes exploration. The British took control in 1761 at the conclusion of the French and Indian War.

The Indians, however, had their revenge on the British in the 1763 massacre when they gained entry to the fort by a ruse during a simulated lacrosse game and slaughtered most of the English garrison, but spared the French-speaking traders. It was part of a general Great Lakes uprising inspired by Chief Pontiac.

The British retook the fort in 1764 and held it until the Revolutionary War when they abandoned it, moving to nearby Mackinac Island which offered a better defensive position. Fort Michilimackinac then was left to be covered by the drifting, blowing sand until 1959.

## Postal Law 'Rule Of Thumb' Accurate Fingerprint

A new postal statute gives every citizen the right to stop "unwanted pandering advertisements" from coming to his home.

The broadly-written statute, enacted as part of the postal revenue and federal salary act of 1967, could present a big problem to post office officials here and throughout the country.

"It has the potential of making 100 million censors in the country," said one postoffice worker. "It is inviting a lot of correspondence."

Under the new law, the postmaster will prohibit the sending of "any pandering advertisement which offers for sale matter which the addressee in his sole discretion believes to be erotically arousing or sexually provocative."

A few centuries ago, King Charles of England stuck out his arm, measured the distance from his noble nose to his outstretched fingertips and pronounced that a yard. Measure of measurement went to all lengths in those days.

The "rule of thumb" was no idle catch-phrase. In those times, an inch was the width of a man's thumb. The weight of things was just as loosely defined.

In early England, it was well known that bakers gave short measures to their customers because there was no way of checking weight. Consequently, a law was passed decreeing that any baker who sold 12 cakes to one person had to add a 13th (the original baker's dozen) to make up for the loss.

HOUSEWIVES WHO were determined to bake their own soon found themselves caught up in an avalanche of am-bivalence when they tried to follow a recipe. To make one of Martha Washington's famous cakes, for instance, the First Lady advocated a "fistful of butter," a "mushel of sugar" plus the proverbial "pinch of salt."

## Let the Profile Bread Plan help prolong your Slender Years.

Free information about other Michigan vacation attractions may be obtained by writing to



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### Check Medicine Cabinets

The National Safety Council advises families to check their medicine cabinets and retain only those medications that were purchased recently and are labeled for instant identification.

The Council warns that some compounds deteriorate with age, while others become dangerously strong through evaporation.

Discard unlabeled containers.

### Always Check The Label

These young ladies at their kitchen tea party make sure the insecticide says "Non-Toxic to Humans and Pets" right on the aerosol. Even in the indoor season, insects can be a problem. It is especially important at this time to select an insecticide that is not harmful around children, food and pets. Sprays that say "Non-Toxic to Humans and Pets" boldly on the label contain pyrethrins, nature's only insecticide. Only insects are affected — and quickly. There is no need to worry about harm to children at play around the house, no matter where they choose to hold their next tea party.