



Upper Peninsula touring provides scenic contrasts

The eastern tip of the Upper Peninsula offers a variety of travel attractions ranging from the Soo Locks, America's mightiest mile, to tree-covered, lonely islands.

This tour is for those who like contrasts. The locks are an engineering marvel, while islands along the tour route offer peace and quiet and also are popular with hunters and fishermen.

This 115-mile circular trip includes the historic cities of Sault Ste. Marie and St. Ignace plus Sugar, Neebish, Drummond and the Les Cheneaux islands.

Sault Ste. Marie, home of the St. Marys Falls Canal—better known as the Soo Locks—is Michigan's oldest city and the third oldest in the United States. The Sault celebrated its tricentennial seven years ago.

THE FOUR American locks, which carry more water traffic than any other canal in the world, are the city's big attraction. Operated by the U.S. Corps of Engineers, they have been modernized several times since the first was built in 1855.

Three viewing stands next to the MacArthur Lock, closest to the Soo mainland, enable visitors to practically touch the huge freighters being lifted between Lakes Superior and Huron.

Another attraction, just four blocks away, is the Ste. Marie Towers and Shrine. The Shrine, a 21-story, three-columned observation tower-cathedral, is a memorial to the men who explored and settled the Great Lakes, particularly Father Jacques Marquette.

Another attraction, also nearby, is the S.S. Valley Camp, a retired Great Lakes ore freighter which has been turned into a maritime museum and can be toured.

FOR THOSE who want to park and tour, the Soo trackless train covers a 14-mile route, part of it in Canada.

The ferry to Sugar Island is on the southern outskirts of Sault Ste. Marie. The island is closer to the mainland than any similarly developed resort island in Michigan.

Fish in Sugar Island waters include walleyes, bass, perch, pike and bullheads. There are a few moose, deer in abundance, black bear, coyote, fox and wolves and such smaller animals as beaver, muskrat, porcupine, raccoon and squirrel.

The island is criss-crossed by primary and local roads, including a down hard-surface arteries.

While the island has its band of devotees who go there summer after

summer, first-time vacationers should have little trouble finding cottages or resort accommodations to their liking.

JUST SOUTH is Neebish Island, also reached by ferry. Although settled since 1827, the island never has had more than a few hundred permanent residents. Several roads cross the island, one leading to a small settlement, Neebish, in the southeastern part.

Drummond Island, a mile across De Tour Passage at the eastern tip of the Upper Peninsula, also is reached by ferry. Drummond holds the distinction of being the last British outpost in the U.S.

The island, 28 miles long and 13 miles wide at its extreme, contains 120 square miles, of which nearly three-fourths are state-owned. Although a rocky wilderness, modern residences are abundant.

For many years, Drummond has been considered one of the state's better deer hunting areas. Black bear also are hunted. The fishing for warm-water species is probably as good as anywhere in the state.

DRIVING WEST of M-124 after returning from Drummond, the tourist goes south at either Cedarville or Hessel, both small villages. At the shore-line, glistening into Lake Huron as far as the eye can see are a chain of 26 islands.

These are Les Cheneaux Islands, one of the state's best vacation spots for those who like to fish and enjoy water sports and boating in safe, protected waters. The area has numerous cabin-cottage type accommodations.

While the visitor can drive through part of the islands, a boat is needed to see their primitive beauty, and all types are for rent. The islands in the group extend from east to west about 12 miles and range in size from 4,000 acres to less than an acre.

St. Ignace is the last stop on the tour. Father Marquette founded a mission here in 1671.

VISITORS MAY see the Old Mission Church in Marquette Park. The 135-year-old church is now a museum. On one side is the grave of Father Marquette, on the other is the impressive Father Marquette Memorial.

This year, St. Ignace celebrates its "Black Gown Tree" pageant Aug. 28-31. The pageant reenacts Father Marquette's arrival by canoe at St. Ignace and his reception by the Indians.

Costs on rise for information

Michigan Bell has reported it will cost a record \$25 million to provide information service this year.

Frank Zimmerman, general manager of statewide operator services operations, said increased wages will boost this year's costs by more than \$1 million over 1974, although the number of information calls will be about the same. Information handled 190 million requests for telephone numbers in 1974.

Generally, calls to information have been rising at a faster rate than the overall increase in telephones. And the costs of providing information service continue to escalate at an even faster rate.

Since 1965, information calling volumes have risen some 35 percent

while costs have doubled, Zimmerman reported. He predicted that if calling volumes continue to increase at the same rate and if wages go up as they have in the past decade, the cost to Michigan Bell for handling information calls would soar to \$30 million annually within the next ten years.

IN MARCH the company asked the state Public Service Commission for permission to charge customers who make heavy use of information service. Under the proposed charge plan, each customer would be allowed three calls a month to information before charging begins. For every call above the allowance, there would be a charge of 20 cents.

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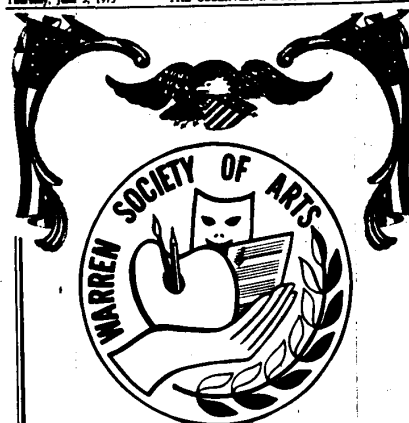


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