

In the Leelanau

Upper Michigan resorts make handy hideaways

By Bettie Cannon
special writer

VACATIONING AT the Homestead on Leelanau Peninsula is as luxurious as South Carolina's Hilton Head and as varied as Florida's South Seas Plantation. Like those well-known vacation spots, the Homestead is a condominium/resort. And it's only 270 miles from Detroit.

Tucked into a blue-green setting of lakes and pine-covered hills, the Homestead at Glen Arbor is a subdivision of cedar homes and condos linked by wood-plank walks and bridges. This Midwest condominium/resort is popular with active, sport-oriented 35-to-50-year-olds and their children. Honey-mooners, first or second, come here too. Some own. Some rent.

For the uninitiated, a condominium/resort means high-rise or cluster housing set around a common recreational point: ski country, sea coast, lake shore with marinas, golf, tennis, pool and shops for owners and daily or weekly renters.

You can buy a condominium for a six-figure price at the Homestead, at Harbor Cove in Harbor Springs or at Crosswinds in Ludington (now in phase one of construction). There you have the advantages of a second or retirement home in a fine resort.

When you can't be there, you can rent your unit overnight or for longer periods. Rentals, maintenance, cleaning and linens can be provided by a resort-management group for a fee, usually about 40 percent of the rent. At Crosswinds, \$5 boat slips will be provided.

If you rent, condominium vacationing means the amenities of a fine hotel plus a kitchen and nature thrown in. What you lack in privacy you make up in comfort, variety and ease.

AT THE HOMESTEAD, you'll find one-, two-, three- or four-bedroom units with such names as Tall Timbers, Great Lakes and Crystal Beach, set among birches and pines on the shore of Lake Michigan or Crystal River. All buildings are just a wood-en-bridge walk away from the 1 1/2-mile stretch of sand beach. Larger units sleep up to 10 people.

If sunsets and cliff-dwellings are your idea of heaven, there are more condos atop a steep bluff:

Logger's Run, Ship Watch and Ridge Top. Names tell the story — the spot where early loggers rolled pine logs down to the shore for loading, views of ore boats on the lake and a ridge high above rows of beachside condos below.

Rents range from \$40 a day for bedroom and bath to \$600 a week for a four-bedroom, three-bath lakefront unit, maid service included. Prices vary with season, space and time. Tennis packages are available.

Inside, units feature fireplaces, cathedral ceilings and electric heat for each room. Some units have microwave ovens, blenders and china and silver.

Outside there are nine clay courts, two platform-tennis courts, Hobies and Sunfish and canoes to rent, an outdoor heated pool and two restaurants. A small shopping village is planned within the 225-acre resort. Meanwhile, the Glen Arbor IGA stocks frozen foods and homemade sandwiches for when you don't feel like cooking.

FROM THE balcony outside your living room you see the sun set into the lake. Across the curve of beach is the Sleeping Bear Dune and out into the bay are the North and South Manitou Islands.

The Chippewa Indians had a legend about these two islands — about the mother bear who tried to swim across Lake Michigan with her twin cubs. She landed safely on the shore but the cubs did not. She has waited for centuries for her cubs, the two islands in the dark water.

After sunset, boardwalks on the road side of the California-style condos come alive. Children carrying Sunfish sails wrapped around booms hurry home for dinner in the cool evening air.

The aroma of steak on the grill mingles with that of the pines. People walk up the walk with tennis racquets and return dressed in blue jackets and pastel dresses. They are headed for the inn for dinner, a walk away.

The continental-style restaurant is a rustic, board-and-batten building built in 1923 for Cora and Skip Beale, former owners of the land where the resort lies. They founded the Leelanau School for Boys, a private secondary school which has been moved to a site south of the Homestead.

Pictures of 1920 and 1930 schoolboys line the



walls of the inn. High-backed bamboo chairs circle dark-clothed tables set with crystal and silver.

Children are not refused admission here, but they will like the Racquet Club better. Set deep in the woods, this family-oriented dining room features a children's menu.

The Homestead (above) at Glen Arbor comes complete with its own private beach (right) on Lake Michigan.



Please turn to Page 7D

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