

Travel



Thursday, May 28, 1987 O&E

(#7D)★#9B

B&B: It's like visiting an old friend

FOR RAY Gage, publisher of *Insider* Magazine, it means recapturing the deeper living values of another age.

For readers who have visited the bed and breakfast establishments and historic inns of Michigan, it means many small but important things: fresh flowers or hand-made quilts in the guest room, breakfast with a family, tea in the garden, most of all the personal touch you get when you visit a friend.

That's what an inn was 150 years ago, not only a place to sleep but also a place to catch up on the news and meet new people. You wouldn't like the constable beds offered to travelers in the 19th century, or the fact that you shared a room with many other travelers, but you'll like them now.

The great thing about visiting a historic inn or B&B in 1987 is that you are riding a time capsule back to an earlier American lifestyle and you are taking your modern bed and other 20th century conveniences with you. It is a good way to get in touch with our 150th birthday.

GAGE, WHO BOUGHT *Insider* magazine and runs it from his Ferndale office, has always liked the "old standards, when a carpenter was a carpenter and not a deck maker and a mason really knew how to lay bricks."

"Full service in a gas station now means they pump gas for you, but it's not long since it meant washing windows, checking oil and tires. I used to mean real service."

"I like the old country inns because they are family run and they



one-of-a-kind traveler

Iris Jones

contributing travel editor

keep that standard of personal service." *Insider* is a national magazine, but Gage's first issue had the Garfield Inn of Port Austin on the cover, and his June 1986 issue focused on Michigan. The Port Austin scene is a good example of B&B in Michigan.

ON ONE SIDE OF Lake Street, the three-story Garfield Inn rises above a green lawn, its red clapboard and white trim leading to a turreted roof line. James Garfield, who later became president of the United States, made an impassioned plea for the presidential bid of Ulysses S. Grant from the balcony of this home in 1860.

When I wandered in to take a look, I found guests gathered around a mahogany bar while the owners, Gary and Gayle Regier, set the tables for dinner and organized a nighttime activity in the lounge. Upstairs, four-poster beds graced the guest rooms; a room with bath costs \$85 including breakfast.

ACROSS THE STREET is the Lake Street Manor, a beautiful two-story brick home built by a lumber baron in 1884 and now run as a bed and breakfast by Carolyn Greenwood. Room with bath ranges upward from \$55. You can stay upstairs in a nicely furnished bedroom, have breakfast in bed or downstairs, enjoy the Victorian garden or sit in the hot tub in the Bay Room.

"Michigan's Bed & Breakfast and Historic Inns," published by the Michigan Travel Bureau, divides personalized accommodations like

this into three categories: Bed & breakfast lodgings, historic inns and historic hotels.

The historic hotels are at least 50 years old, and have more than 21 rooms; this list includes one of the three sesquicentennial hotels that go back to 1837 or beyond: Botsford Inn, Farmington Hills. The other two are the Old Tavern Inn, Niles and National Inn, Marshall.

IT ALSO NAMES places like the Dearborn Inn, St. Clair Inn, Stafford's Bay View Inn in Potoskey, the Mayflower in Plymouth, the Grand Hotel and five others on Mackinac Island, and the Terrace Inn, Bayview.

I'm looking forward to visiting the Terrace Inn, which has been bought and restored by Frank Shumway, who also owns the Birchwood Inn, Harbor Springs. Frank is a lawyer who got tired of the city. That's how many of the inns and B&Bs are created.

The state lists historic inns, eight to 20 guest rooms, separately. That includes the Garfield Inn and one of my favorites, the Hotel Frankfort in Frankfort.

This hotel and the Brookside Inn, Beulah, both owned by Kirk Lorenz, have large individualized rooms with 7-by-7-by-3-foot Polynesian spa tubs and lots of other funky extras. Lorenz incidentally is formerly of Plymouth.

The term "historic inn" also includes several places I have heard good things about: i.e. the Wickwood Inn in Saugatuck, the Last Resort in South Haven, the Victorian Villa in

Union City and Inn at Union Pier in Union Pier.

MANY READERS have written to me about their B&B experiences. Janet Vanderpoorten of Dearborn highly recommends both the National Inn and the lesser-known McCarthy's Bear Creek Inn in Marshall. "At Bear Creek, we usually stay in the Library Room which has a bay window that overlooks the creek at Bear Creek." She also visited and thinks highly of the Winchester Inn.

Mary Monroe of Livonia is especially fond of the Leelanau Country Inn in Maple City near Leelanau, which is in the state's inn section and the Jollif Inn, on nearby Lake Leelanau. The Jollif has six rooms and two apartments in the main lodge, and others in cottages.

"Each cottage is furnished, clean, stocked with dishes and cooking utensils. All you bring are sheets and towels," she said.

Jollif Lodge was also mentioned by Miriam Lutermoser of Livonia, whose brother Keith Jolliffe is the owner. The Jolliffes are also former Plymouth residents.

Jollif may not be what some people think of as a B&B. It is not listed among the 24 Year-End Bed and Breakfast Lodgings in the state book, but B&B operators like Andrea Castee of the Stuart Avenue Inn, Kalamazoo, doesn't want travelers to focus too much on that book anyway.

Andrea, and Pam O'Connor of the Hall House, Kalamazoo, have organized the Lake to Lake Bed & Breakfast Association, which has members all over the state. Among their members, I found many bed and breakfast places that were recommended to me by other people, but were not listed elsewhere.

Bev Sharrette, formerly of Farmington Hills, had nice things to say, for example, about the Boulevard Inn in Tecumseh. I have also heard great things about the Riverside Inn, which serves a fish boil and other interesting outdoor meals to guests and the public in Leelanau.

fast places like this all over Michigan. Grace and Robert Schneider run bed and breakfast at Ludington. The Murphy Inn has operated on a back street in St. Clair for 150 years. There are nine B&Bs in Northport, including Beatrice Bower's Plum Inn, her daughter Sue Hammerley's North Shore Inn and David Chrobak's Old Mill Pond Inn.

Here's how you find them: Pick your area. Check the books we list below. Call the convention bureau or chamber of commerce for suggestions. Call the inn and ask questions: price, style, with or without bath etc.

The state listing is available through the Travel Bureau, Michigan Dept. of Commerce, P.O. Box 30226, Lansing 48909, or telephone toll-free 1-800-545-2937. Lake to Lake Bed and Breakfast Association, 405 Stuart Ave., Kalamazoo 49007.

You can buy *Bed & Breakfast in Michigan*, by Norma Buzan, from Betsy Ross Publications, 3057 Betsy Ross Drive, Bloomfield Hills 48303. Also check *Michigan Towns and Country Inns* by Susan Pyle, University of Michigan Press as well as *Country Inns and Back Roads*, both available at book stores; the latter is

The great thing about visiting an historic inn or B&B in 1987 is that you are riding a time capsule back to an earlier American lifestyle and you are taking your modern bed and other 20th century conveniences with you.

national and includes the National House, Botsford Inn, Stafford's Bay View Inn and the Michillinda Beach Lodge in Whitehall.

FOR A SUBSCRIPTION to the *Insider*, or a \$3.25 copy of the June 1988 Michigan issue, write to them at 821 Wanda, Ferndale 48220. *Insider* publisher Gage reminds you of B&B etiquette. You are in a private home. Don't put your dirty feet on the homemade quilts. Pretend you are visiting a friend. You are.



MICKY JONES/photo

A typical B&B bedroom. This one is in Stafford's Bayview Inn in Potoskey.

YOU WILL FIND bed and break-



MICKY JONES/photo

A typical bed and breakfast in Northport.

- 102 -
Vintage House
BED & BREAKFAST

You Are Invited to a VERY SPECIAL WEEKLY Sunday Brunch Starting May 31, 1987 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Carving Stations • Breakfast Items • Sweet Table

Dine with us at Southfield's only Atrium Garden Restaurant featuring an array of delicious Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner selections plus a surprisingly sweet Dessert Table.

Reservations recommended 350-2000

Adults \$13.95 Children \$5.95
Senior Citizens \$11.95/plus tax and gratuity

EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL

28100 Franklin Road
Southfield, Michigan

VACATION PLANNER

Presented by the
THE
Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS

CALIFORNIA

GOLDEN COST TOUR—8 DAYS

\$439 COMPLETE PER PERSON
Based on Double Occupancy
From Detroit Metropolitan Airport

DEPARTS TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 1987—RETURNS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 1987
OR
DEPARTS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1988—RETURNS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1988

***Your Price Includes:**

- Air Transportation on scheduled airlines with in-flight meals
- Hotel Accommodations
- To-Yo-Room baggage handling
- Sight-seeing and special events
- Hotel/Airport transfers (in California)
- Entrance fees
- Fully Escorted

San Francisco Buellton/Solvang Los Angeles Hollywood

GOLDEN WEST TOUR—8 DAYS

\$439 COMPLETE PER PERSON
Based on Double Occupancy
From Detroit Metropolitan Airport

DEPARTS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1987—RETURNS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1987
OR
DEPARTS TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1988—RETURNS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1988

***Your Price Includes:**

- Air Transportation on scheduled airlines with in-flight meals
- Hotel Accommodations
- To-Yo-Room baggage handling
- Sight-seeing and special events
- Hotel/Airport transfers (in California)
- Entrance fees
- Fully Escorted

Palm Springs Calico Ghost Town Los Angeles Hollywood

YOUR MAN TOURS

Please send me at no obligation a tour brochure explaining all the details and applications for the following tour:

24824 MICHIGAN AVENUE
DEARBORN, MI 48124
(313) 278-4102

CALIFORNIA GOLDEN COAST TOUR
 CALIFORNIA GOLD WEST TOUR

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____
ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____