

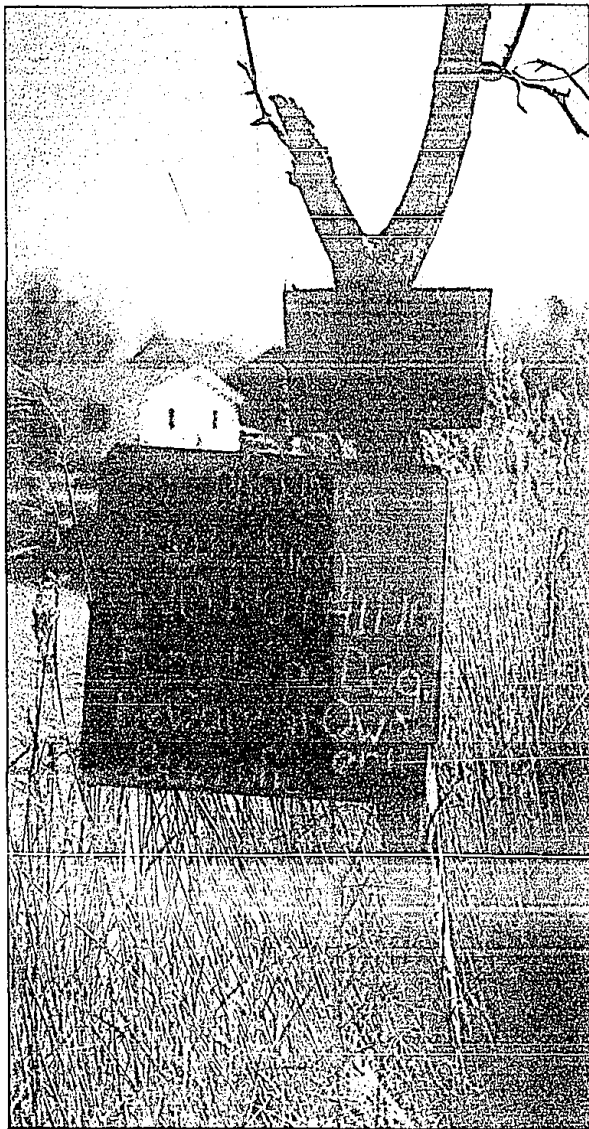
STREET SCENE

Inside Rollin' along

They look like ice skates but have wheels like roller skates. It's a marriage of the two that has produced Rollerblades, the latest craze in warm weather recreation. Fat Schutte takes a look at the wheeled wonders on Page 6D.

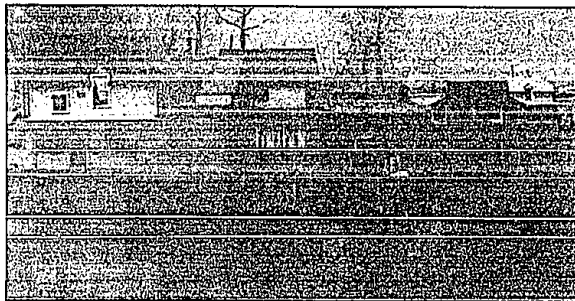
The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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Don't let the sign fool you. While it may sound unneighborly, the residents of Harsen's Island are as neighborly as can be.

photos by RANDY BORST/staff photographer



The newer homes are more opulent, but along some of the island's shores you'll find houses on stilts, built in the 1920s and '30s.

HARSEN'S ISLAND

Lake St. Clair's curvaceous gem

By Loraine McClellan
staff writer

THE MOST OUTSTANDING characteristic of Harsen's Island is its unusual land mass. A horseshoe-shaped lake swirls within the 10-by-3-mile island giving the land channels, canals, spits, coves and more islands.

Several houses are built on islands within the island. And because of all of the land curves, it is not unusual for a house to have a water view on three sides.

Much of the waterways are lined with marsh grass, sometimes so thick it blocks the view but it protects the many and varied water fowl and their nests.

Bring binoculars and your nature guide to best appreciate the birds that live in the marshes, as profuse as the fish under the waters judging by the number of fishermen who line the shores.

From the earliest sign of spring, the fishermen come, some with rod and reel, some with pole and some with bow and arrow.

In the fall the sportsman come for duck hunting. In the winter they come for ice fishing.

All of the marsh lands — which means much of the island — are wildlife sanctuaries owned by the Department of Natural Resources.

Sans Souci — a village unto itself consisting of seven buildings — is

downtown Harsen's Island.

There are two country clubs — known by the residents as the Old Country Club and the New Country Club — two churches, an elementary

grade school, a golf course and a raft of marinas.

San Souci, with its one bar and restaurant, is not too far from the island's one public park. Either site offers a superb view of the industrial and commercial boats that sail the Great Lakes and use Harsen's Islands' South Channel.

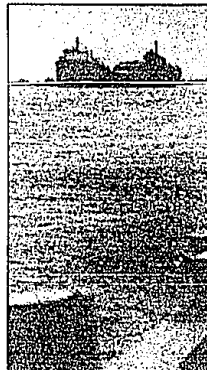
HARSENS ISLAND is not listed with the Michigan Bureau of Tourism. Harsen's Island has no chamber of commerce. Harsen's Island, about 90 minutes from downtown Detroit, east on I-94, then east on Route 29 just this side of Algonac, is strictly a residential community with the largest homeowners association in Michigan.

Artie Bryson said he tried for years to get a chamber of commerce organized, but it never got off the ground.

"The homeowners association does the job of a chamber of commerce, with bike races, field days, that sort of thing for the residents. They (the 1,000 members) just didn't think they needed anything else," he said.

Bryson, born and raised on Harsen's Island, is turning a boat into a restaurant, which cannot help but become a landmark for the island. The boat sits next to a small sign that is the entrance to the Champion Auto Ferry.

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Freighters cruise the island's South Channel as they traverse the Great Lakes during the shipping season.

Warp Factor

Karlos Barney



"You see, Doc... I'm the Staten Island fairy, but due to a cruel phonetic coincidence, no one believes in me."

Southern adventure starts in Ohio

By Iris Sanderson Jones
contributing travel editor

Q: Everybody e've is going north to get away from the heat, but we like it hot so we're driving to Savannah on our 10-day vacation. And we're leaving the kids home with grandma. Help us find interesting places to stay. My wife likes shopping and historic houses. I like places, trails and wilderness.

V.E.E.
Farmington

A: There are a couple of obvious stops for plane lovers on your first day out. The Neil A. Armstrong Air and Space Museum, two hours drive down I-75 in Wapakoneta, Ohio, is celebrating the 20th anniversary of the moon landing in the hometown of the astronaut who said "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

The Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio, is a great two-hour stop, if you haven't seen it before.

If you like historic inns, it's worth the 10-mile detour off I-75 from Middletown to the Golden Lamb in Lebanon, Ohio. It is the

oldest inn in the state. Highlights include an inn full of Shaker furniture, guest rooms straight out of Greenfield Village, an old-fashioned dining room and the most popular bar in the area. It is a straight run from Lebanon into the

queen city on the Ohio River, (Caution: The Golden Lamb is very popular, so reserve ahead.)

Cincinnati is one of my favorite cities, but shoppers cross the bridge to Covington, Ky., for a downtown full of specialty and

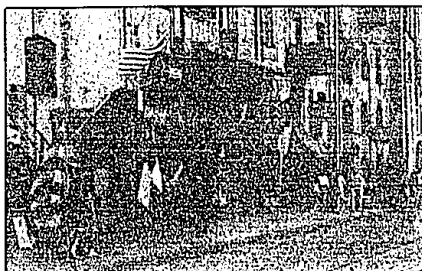
outlet stores. While you're there, have a meal on the river at the Catfish Farm. If you like really funky places, ask the tourist bureau if the local ventriloquist museum is open for visitors. Charley McCarthy would love it.

WILDERNESS LOVERS couldn't do better than to stay overnight in one of Kentucky's state park lodges or adjacent cabins. There are several of them near I-75. Train lovers should definitely stay at the Chattanooga Choo Choo, a railway station turned into a food-drink-shopping center (Trapper's Alley style) in downtown Chattanooga. The Hilton Hotel rooms are in train cars on the tracks outside. Expensive, but worth it for one night.

All these suggested stops are designed to break up a long trip, but once you cross the Georgia border you may want to slow down for some real sightseeing.

Furnished cottages are available in 23 of Georgia's state parks. Fort Mountain, Red Top Mountain and Indians Springs are all close to

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MICKY JONES

When in Savannah, Ga., be sure to stroll through the restored riverfront streets of Factors Walk.