## Mackinac Island by boat: Magical!

Continued From Page 9 to the fort. There's a lot to see on the island."

Historic Fort Mackinac overlooks the bay and the village from a high bluff behind the state docks. It's a restored 18th and 19th century British and American military outpost. Chief Guide Dennis Havlena and his helpers, wearing military uniforms of the late 19th century, conduct tours answer your questions and keep things interesting by shooting off their ancient rifles and cannon. The nautically oriented gift shop offers books that will intrigue boaters

interested in the island's history.

But of all the jewels Mackinac Island has to offer, the 105-year-old Grand Hotel is the most unique. A lot of visiting boaters climb up to see the well-preserved grande dame of the island, resplendent with the colorful decor of the world-reknowned Carleton Varney. There is a \$5 cover charge to visit the hotel during the day. After 6 p.m. you can visit without charge as long as you meet the dress code, which requires jackets and ties for men, and "their loveliest," including dressy pants suits, for

Nothing could be pleasanter than to clip-clop up the hill to the Grand Hotel in a horse-drawn cab (they circulate constantly in the village) and be handed down by a red-coated doorman wearing a plug hat. You can dine royally in the vast dining room, served by courteous and attentive waiters dressed in white tie and gold-buttoned green tailcoats. You can choose the proper wine from an engraved wine-list as elegant as Queen Victoria's letterhead. There's music of all sorts throughout the hotel, from a genteel violin-piano recital in the Parlor during high tea, to the

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cated 9 miles porth of Elk Rapids off

of the talented Bob Snyder's band at the Terrace Room at night. Boaters like the piano bar at the hotel's Jockey Club, a separate pub where the dress code relaxes.

Boaters also like to gather at The Village Inn, which serves dinners (\$11 to \$19) from 5 to 11 p.m. "It's a family-type eating and drinking saloon," says Ron Dufina, its owner. There's a big TV set hanging over each end of the art deco bar. A chalkboard lists the daily sports events to be seen on them. A typical posting announces Tiger baseball and two basketball games. "It gets a little

sports-nutty," says the bartender.

Dufina, who grew up on the island, uses his 30-foot Sea Ray Sundance to visit restaurants and crafts shops be owns in Mackinaw City and St. Ignace, as well as on Mackinac Island, "My souvenir shops sell rubber tomahawks and spears," he says, "just what I used to love as a

Dufina's sense of business started early, when as a young man during the '60's be worked at the island marina. "It was very lucrative," he recalls. "All the boaters needed ice, and I could haul it here for 50 cents a bag and

Now he keeps his boat there---one of the rare holders of a seasonal slip. It took eight years on the waiting list.

The Pilot House, a bar and catery with a new owner, occupies a corner of the Lakeview Hotel on Huron Street across from the ferry docks. It now belongs to Patrick O'Kenyon of Royal Oak, who hopes to get the best possible return on his money by running The Pilot House during the season and taking 22 weeks off. The Pilot House features wine, beer, and dinners from \$7 to \$10, and gets a lot of boating customers. Keith Barrie and friends from III Cheers rave about the

breakfasts they get here. Despite the many fine eating-places on the island, some visitors eat aboard their boats. Barrie Wilkes, of Alma, Michigan keeps his 32-foot Islander sloop at Cheboygan and brings it to the island often. Wilkes had rounded up friends and family for his season-opening

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