

LET'S GO! TRAVEL

Don't forget to pack your Observer

It's fun to share news about your family vacation with friends and neighbors by sending photos to the Observer. To be considered, take the front page of your Observer Newspaper on vacation. Ask someone to snap a photograph of your family holding the newspaper in a scenic spot. Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope if you would like the photos returned to you.

We'll print as many photos as space allows each week. Photos will be returned shortly after publication. Send photos and travel recommendations to Keely Wygnik, Entertainment Editor, Observer Newspaper, 38251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. For more information, call (313) 953-2105. We're also looking for recommendations for good places to

go with families — overnight, for a weekend or week. What's your favorite spring-time getaway? Where are you planning to go this summer? Any tips for planning memorable family vacations? When you leave for a trip, don't forget to pack the front section of your Observer. We're looking forward to seeing your vacation photos.

Wish you were here



Florida vacation: Richard (left to right), Carrie and Alana Waldorf of Farmington Hills, waiting to take the "Naples Trolley Tour" in Naples, Fla.

Family enjoys sunny vacation

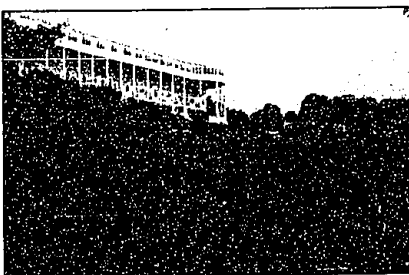
Richard, Carrie and Alana Waldorf of Farmington Hills just returned from a delightful vacation in sunny Naples, Fla. They took along their Farmington Observer, and sent us a photo.

"The lady who works for the trolley took our picture, and it turned out she was originally from Farmington Hills," wrote Alana. "The peaceful, quiet, relaxing West Florida coast offers plenty

of water and cultural activities, but without the bumper-to-bumper traffic and general congestion of the Ft. Lauderdale side," she wrote. "We will definitely return to sunny Naples."

Have a 'Grand' time on island

For over a century, the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, has been — and still is — a favorite family destination. The world's largest summer hotel begins its 109th season May 12, with some surprises. The Jewel golf course has been expanded to a full 18-hole course; Rebecca's, a new children's area, offers entertaining and educational activities during the day and evening; and Astor's full-service salon, will offer manicures, pedicures and massages. At the Grand Hotel you can do a lot or nothing at all. Activities include carriage tours, bicycling, musical entertainment and dancing, golf, tennis, swimming, garden strolls, and hiking through woodlands. Go for a picnic, play croquet on the sweeping hotel lawn, or visit historic Fort Mackinac and Arch Rock overlooking Lake Huron. Grand Hotel follows the long-time tradition of including breakfast and dinner in its room rate. Rates vary by peak and shoulder season, and tipping is not permitted. An 18 percent charge is added to the daily room and meal rate. Call 1-800-33-GRAND for information. With 11 restaurants and bars on Grand Hotel grounds, dining options are available for every appetite. In the Grand Hotel's Parlor, music recitals accompany afternoon High Tea and evening Demitasse is served after dinner. Here are some special packages that are being offered this season. Prices include accommodations, breakfast and five-course dinner daily. ■ Grand Opening weekend, May 12-14, features a spectacular brunch in honor of Mother's Day. Cost is \$450 per couple. ■ Grand Hotel Arts weekend, June 23-25, offers the opportunity to meet faculty from the Michigan State University College of Arts and Letters as they entertain and interact with you. You'll be treated to musical performances, recitals, actors performing selected



Grand view: At 660 feet, Grand Hotel's front porch is the world's largest, and is visible as you approach the island from Lake Michigan.

scenes, artists' talks, and art on display. Cost \$540 per couple. ■ Connorsseurs' Weekend, June 30 to July 2 and Sept. 15-17 offers wine tasting, kitchen/garden tour, high tea, sumptuous seven-course Silver Service dinner and Sunday picnic. Cost \$1,099 per couple. ■ Celebrate the Grand Hotel's 109th birthday, June 30, July 1, 5, 6, 12. Tour the hotel's kitchens and gardens, and enjoy all the amenities the hotel has to offer. Cost is \$299 per night. ■ Old-Fashioned Mackinac Fourth of July Celebration — July 2-5. Included in the package is an lion cream social, cook-out luncheon, and dinner children's programs. ■ Games and Gardens Week, Aug. 27-31. Stay three nights and fourth night is free. Or, stay two nights and receive third night half off. Enjoy spirited games of croquet, stay Bocce Ball, get unlimited free use of the Grand nine-hole golf course, and unlimited free tennis on Grand Hotel's courts. Cost \$279 per couple, per night. ■ Labor Day Jazz Weekend, Sept. 1 to Sept. 4, stay fourth night free either Thursday, Aug. 31 or Monday, Sept. 4. Full slate of nationally-known entertainers, rise and shine Sunday morning to an inspirational gospel performance. Cost \$1,099 per couple. ■ Carleton Varney's Antique & Design Fall Festival, Sept. 29 to Oct. 1. Antique authorities share their tips for finding treasures, hints on decorating with antiques. Cost \$699 per couple. ■ Magical Murder Mystery Weekend, Oct. 6-8. Piece together clues and solve a spine-tingling murder with the help of hotel guests. Cost \$639 per couple. ■ Big Band Dance Extravaganza, Oct. 20-22. Dance to live big band music all weekend long. During the day you'll have the opportunity to learn new steps with dance instructors. Cost \$689 per couple. ■ "Somewhere in Time Weekend" Oct. 27-29. Special showing of "Somewhere in Time." Period film buffs and fans will have the opportunity to meet and exchange thoughts with members of the cast and crew, tour sites in Grand Hotel and on Mackinac Island where scenes were shot, and attend panel discussions, trivia contests and informative lectures. Cost \$699 per couple.

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