

2 TOP TRAVEL experiences in MICHIGAN

5th of a series

FORMER GOVERNORS' HOMES

BESIDES GOV. WISNER (1859-60) IN PONTIAC, HOMES OF MICHIGAN GOVERNORS AROUND THE STATE INCLUDE:

- FRANK MURPHY (1937-38)
- HARBOR BEACH
- ALBERT E. SLEEPER (1917-20)
- BAD AXE
- FRANK D. FITZGERALD (1935-36 AND 1939)
- GRAND LEDGE
- LUREN D. DICKINSON (1939-40)
- CHARLOTTE
- FRED W. GREEN (1927-30)
- IONIA

GOV. MOSES WISNER HOME, PONTIAC

Four homes are open to the public. Two are now museums, another is a community house and the fourth, restored completely, is owned by the Daughters of the American Revolution and open by appointment. The others remain private residences and may be viewed only from the sidewalk or road.

OF PRIME interest is "Pine Grove" ("The Pines," one owned by Moses Wisner, at 405 Oakland, northwest of downtown Pontiac. It is now headquarters for the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society, which acquired the property for \$15,000 in 1945. A long, curving driveway leads to the large, brick, two-story house, replete with tall, white pillars and green-shuttered windows. Wisner purchased the home in 1844, and it served as a governor's mansion during his 1859-60 term. The estate takes its name from an early stand of pine trees which now number only four.

All rooms, with the exception of what was once the servants quarters and kitchen, are open to the public. There also is a pool cellar, and

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AS SELECTED BY AUTO CLUB OF MICHIGAN

4 Ex-Governors' Homes Open

The big, old homes have noticeable differences, but all have two things in common — they're a part of Michigan's showplaces and the homes of former Michigan governors.

Automobile Club of Michigan has listed the former residences of 11 chief executives whose term of office spanned more than a century, with 1948 the most recent.

An auto tour to these homes gives an insight into the personal tastes of these state leaders.

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the home on Broad Street, built two decades before the Civil War. Restored inside and out, it is now owned by the Lucy Wolcott Chapter of the Mrs. Daughters of the American Revolution and is open by appointment.

In Grand Ledge, near Lansing, is the former home of Frank D. Fitzgerald, governor in 1935-36 and 1939, and the only governor since statehood to die in office. A three-story, nine-room dwelling, at 219 W. Jefferson, it was purchased by Fitzgerald in 1936.

Two decades of state service were clinaxed by Fitzgerald's election as governor. Defeated in 1936, he was elected again in 1938, but death ended his term after only three months.

Closely associated with Fitzgerald and almost a neighbor was Luren D. Dickinson, seven-time lieutenant governor who became chief executive upon Fitzgerald's death. The former Dickinson home, a 25-acre farm, is three miles southeast of Charlotte, at 1375 Brookfield Road in Eaton Township.

AT IONIA is the palatial home of Fred W. Green, 1927-30 governor. Green was a furniture manufacturer. His home, on a heavily-wooded hillside estate at 320 Union, was built nearly a half century ago at a cost of around \$100,000. Perched atop the city's steepest hill, it affords a fine view of the Grand River Valley.

Hastings was the home of one of Michigan's most flamboyant governors, Kim Sigler, elected in 1946 and defeated for reelection two years later. He won prominence as special prosecutor during the 1944-45

grand jury in investigation of state government.

A pilot, he was killed in 1953 when his plane hit a television tower near Battle Creek. The former Sigler home in Hastings is at 506 West Green Street.

BAD AXE, in Michigan's Thumb, was the home of Albert E. Sleeper, 1917-20 governor. His term covered most of World War I.

He became a resident of Bad Axe in 1904 and developed banking and real estate interests. He died in 1934. A few years ago his large brick home became a funeral parlor. Sleeper State Park, seven miles northeast of Caseville, is named for him.

On Pontiac Road, south of Kensington Metropolitan Park in Livingston County, is the former home of Kinsley S. Bingham, 1858-59 governor. A two-story, white frame house, it was built in the 1850s. In front of the home is a boulder with a metal marker placed by the Philip Livingston Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, in 1957.

The former home of Fred Warner is at 33805 Grand River, in Farmington. The mansion-type structure was built in 1867. Warner served as Michigan governor from 1905-10.

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Travel Signals A Boom

If Michigan's unexpected vacation travel increase is any indication of the state's economic health, then boom times are just around the corner, according to Automobile Club of Michigan General Manager Fred Rehm.

Rehm told Auto Club executives recently that 1972 requests for domestic travel information on North America from Michigan AAA members are up 21 per cent as compared with the first four months last year.

"Even more surprising is the 30 per cent jump in the number of members served through our world-wide travel department," said Rehm.

"DRAMATIC PROOF that recreation and vacation travel in Michigan is on the upswing — also an indication that the economy is improving — was given over the Memorial Day weekend," Rehm said.

He pointed out that recreation centers near Detroit had their largest Memorial Day crowds ever. Rehm added that day-use facilities at Dodge State Park, Number 4, near Pontiac, filled to capacity both Sunday and Monday. Several Huron — Clinton Metropolitan Parks near Detroit were jammed Monday to the overflow point.

A new day-use recreation area two miles northeast of Flint, which opened May 21, had turn-away crowds over the holiday too. On Sunday, the 35,000 capacity park turned away 5,000 persons and turned away an additional 10,000 the next day.

Mackinac Bridge crossings increased nine per cent over the holiday, Rehm added. Several state parks in the northern Lower Peninsula which never before filled over Memorial Day turned away campers this year. Only 10 of 61 Lower Peninsula state parks had vacant campsites over the holiday weekend.

DURING THE FIRST third of this year, Rehm said, Auto Club members have requested 115,000 domestic routings, up 20,000 requests for the same period last year.

Requests for general information on Michigan's travel have risen 64 per cent for the Upper Peninsula and 23 per cent for the Lower Peninsula.

The most-asked-about state besides Michigan was Florida, with a 32 per cent increase in inquiries, due mainly to the new Disney World.

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