

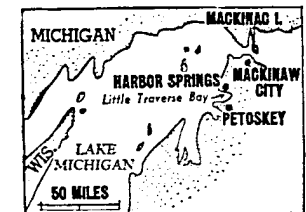
Little Traverse Bay a Haven for Vacationers

Michigan Area Full of Things to See, Do

By John Blackburn

HARBOR SPRINGS, Mich.—The picturesque, historic, and tradition-steeped Harbor Springs area, along the northern shores of Little Traverse bay near the northwest tip of Michigan's lower peninsula, offers many attractions for a summer vacation.

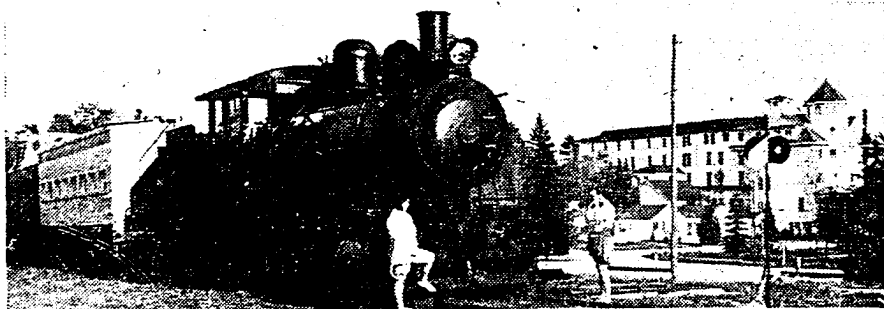
A prosperous lumbering town before 1900, Harbor Springs became a resort for the well-to-do and socially-prominent more than half a century ago, and today the imposing summer homes lining the bay's shores are occupied by families whose



names have graced the social registers of midwestern metropolitan areas for years.

Automobiles are not permitted on Harbor point, a finger of land extending half a mile into the mouth of the bay from Harbor Springs, and the impressive homes and clubhouse there are accessible only on foot or by bicycles or horse-drawn carriages. Tourists may stroll or bicycle thru the area or visit it in the carriages which depart from downtown Harbor Springs at regular intervals.

The whole region—including nearby Petoskey and the land extending northward 35 miles to Mackinaw City, the spectacular Mackinac bridge, and Mackinac Island—affords a wide variety of accommodations and such recreation as



Unique refreshment spot on the grounds of Harbour Inn, on Little Traverse bay, Harbor Springs, Mich., is the ancient steam engine, Old 102 and its car and caboose. Interior of the car has been refitted with tables and chairs. At right is rear of the inn.

(Virgil D. Haynes Photo)

scenic drives, visits to historic spots, water sports, boating, and fishing.

The Little Traverse bay area was Indian country, once the home of the mighty Ottawas. In Harbor Springs is Chief Blackbird's Indian museum [admission free], with an extensive collection of Indian relics, and between Middle Village and Good Hart on Michigan highway 131, along Lake Michigan north of Harbor Springs, is the site of North America's first Jesuit mission, founded in 1741.

A drive along 131 at least as far north as Cross Village, once a Jesuit missionary settlement, is especially rewarding because of the many magnificent views of the lake, and the distance is only 19 miles from Harbor Springs. Just above Cross Village is Wilderness state park, one of the few spots in Michigan where nature's wonders remain unchanged by man or time.

From Wilderness park the traveler can swing east to U. S. highway 31 and north to Mackinaw City and nearby Michilimackinac state park, site of an authentic restoration of the original Fort Michilimackinac, where the entire British garrison was massacred by the Ottawas in 1763.

Easily reached by ferry from Mackinaw City is scenic Mackinac Island, which has been a mecca for vacationers and summer residents for more than three-quarters of a century. Like Harbor Point and Petoskey, Mackinac has world-famous apparel and gift shops,

as well as numerous large and small hotels and other types of vacation accommodations.

Newest beach resort in this northern Michigan area is Harbour Inn, a spacious hotel, with accommodations for more than 200 guests, on the bay at the edge of Harbor Springs. Owner and operator of the inn is N. C. [Nick] Bicking, who acquired and completely remodeled the property last year after being manager of the Grand hotel on

Mackinac Island for more than a decade.

On Harbour Inn's 50 landscaped acres are several hundred feet of sand beach, a dock for small lake craft, a heated swimming pool, tennis and shuffleboard courts, and a unique artesian well which pours out 600,000 gallons of mineral water a day at a constant temperature of 46 degrees. There also are facilities for water skiing, golfing, horseback riding, bicycling

and dancing, and free movies are shown nightly.

A recent addition to the inn's attraction for railroad buffs and camera enthusiasts—is Old 102, a steam locomotive more than 50 years old, with a railroad car and caboose of similar vintage. The latter two house the Whistle Stop, where refreshments are served.

Along the shore line from the inn to the lighthouse at end of Harbor Point, a distance of nearly five miles, is a public beach walk from which visitors can view the handsome summer homes, with their carefully-landscaped and well-tailored lawns and beautiful gardens.

Only a few minutes from Harbour Inn and available to its guests are three championship golf courses—Wequeton Country club and Harbor Point Golf club, each with 18 holes, and Bay View Country club with 27. For fishermen there are several nearby inland lakes, well stocked with bass, pike, and pan fish, and Lake Michigan waters offer bass, perch, and other fish.

Then, if the vacationer wishes to slip back a couple of million years in time, he can stroll along the beaches near Harbour Inn in search of gemlike Petoskey stones, formed of petrified coral and reminders of the eons-ago era of the vast inland sea.



Changing, ever changing with the breezes, is Sleeping Bear sand dune in Leelanau county, near Traverse City, Mich.