

PLANES, TRAINS AND BOATS

Tour goes from Mackinaw to Algoma and back

BY LEN BARNES

Special to the Record-Eagle

For the first time this year, you can take a five-day, all-expense-included trip from Mackinaw City to the Canadian Soo and on the Algoma Central Railroad, which allows you to see the Canadian and American Locks and some of Michigan's lighthouses.

My wife Ellen and I helped 30 mostly southern U.S. travel agents and two other travel writers inaugurate this trip last August.

It begins with an overnight stay at the Mackinaw City Parkside Inn beside the Big Mac Bridge (with a mini-breakfast the next morning) and ends after the fourth night back at the inn with breakfast and a chunk of fudge for each guest. (The inn has a good-sized pool, and guests may park their cars there at no extra cost for five days.)

The first day, there's a half-hour bus tour of the city. Although there are 3,500 inhabitants, only 859 live there in the winter.

This is followed by a tour of the Michilimackinac State Park beside the Big Mac Bridge and the reconstructed fort, which includes a priest's house, blacksmith shop, church and British trader's house.

At the nearby Visitor's Center at the base of the bridge, one can buy wild rice, maple syrup and other tasty souvenirs.

The next step of the tour heads across the Mackinac Bridge by motor coach on the way to the first stop at the Tahquamenon Falls State park and lunch at Camp 33, a restaurant within the park. It lies on a two-acre site built for a brewery

and pub by Jack Barrett, who owned most of the land that is now known as the Tahquamenon Falls State Park. A tour follows lunch.

The next stop is at the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum and Lighthouse at Whitefish Point, where one of the first things seen is a

video discussing lost ships, most notably the Edmund Fitzgerald, which sank Nov. 10, 1975. The video explains that the ship could have made it to safety if it had been able to go 15 more miles to Whitefish Point.

Whitefish Point Lighthouse opened in 1849 and is

the oldest working lighthouse on Lake Superior. Overlooking the graveyard of the Great Lakes, it marks the turning point for all ships leaving and entering

Lake Superior. The museum, theater and tour of the lighthouse were excellent.

The tour then proceeds to

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Special to the Record-Eagle/Ellen Barnes

The lighthouse at Whitefish Point was built in 1849.

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Schedule of Events:

RED FOX INN SUNDAYS

June 22, September 7

One of the great traditions of northern Michigan was the Old Red Fox Inn chicken dinners. We have obtained all the original recipes from Marion Hartwell's daughter. Family style fried chicken, dumplings, mashed potatoes, corn relish, whitefish Patè, cheese rolls and the decadent chocolate cake.

Reservations noon - 3pm. \$19.50 Adults. \$9.75 Children ten and under

FRENCH WINE LUNCHEONS

Every Saturday

We will be offering our French Luncheons and wine sampling. Cheese, Sausage, French Bread, Fruit and twenty-five wines to sample. 12 Noon - 2:00 p.m.

Reservations required for parties of six or more. \$10 per person.

SUNDAY WINE BRUNCHES

June 2 and 16

Brunches feature a buffet selection of twenty-five food items and twenty-five wines from our cellars. 12 Noon - 3 p.m. \$19.00 per person.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON DINNER WITH

CLAUDIA SCHMIDT AND STEVE LITTLE

June 9

Claudia Schmidt and Steve Little perform jazz and blues. Four-course Michigan dinner included. One seating at 1:30 p.m. \$35.00 per person.

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