

L. Michigans Role Important

By LYDIA KING FRENSE
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

In this past season of unprecedented heat, thousands of tourists have found refuge in Michigan's water-wonderland. Many of you who read these lines will have vacationed on the Mike which bisects our state and for which it is named. Viewed with a little imagination the lower peninsula looks like a golden land with its finger tips reaching out to touch the foot of a But below them they share most of the same life which represents the upper peninsula. This division makes two separate areas of our state, each with its own natural resources, its own industry and its own way of life. But between them they share most of the same life which represents the upper peninsula. This division makes two separate areas of our state, each with its own natural resources, its own industry and its own way of life. But between them they share most of the same life which represents the upper peninsula.

BOUNDARY LINE WITH CANADA.
If WAS IN 1634 that the French explorer Jean Nicolet discovered the north shore of Lake Michigan. He was seeking a northwest passage to China and was traveling in a large canoe paddled by seven Huron Indian braves of the Huron Indian tribe. As a gift to the emperor he hoped to meet, he carried "an embroidered robe of China damask all strewn with flowers and birds of many colors."
But alas, the Mongolian destination never wore this colorful robe. Instead Nicolet, entering the farthest extremity of Green Bay, met a band of Indians of the Winnebago tribe. Not long thereafter he was drowned in the St. Lawrence River, his canoe upset by a violent storm.
LAKE MICHIGAN appears as "Lake Illinois" on the Jesuit map of 1672. It was so named because it is the remnant of two pre-glacial lakes, Algonquin and Chicago. In that far-off day the latter extended its boundaries in a narrow crescent to include the present city of Chicago and part of north-west Indiana.
In Michigan its shores were never far from their present boundaries. Sugarloaf rock on Mackinac Island is a remnant, 75 feet tall, of the shore line of old Lake Algonquin which in its day filled and drowned the basins of the three northern Great Lakes and Georgian Bay.
The southeastern shore of Lake Michigan is fringed with lagoons. Some of these are remnants of the old shore lines of Lake Chicago; others are the enlarged mouths of streams and rivers.
STRETCHING southward on our state's western border is a picturesque region of sand dunes, including Warren Dune, the highest of its kind in the United States. These harbor their own characteristic flora including sand cherry, a variety of cactus called "prickly pear" and piñon's thistle.
Lake Michigan is 307 miles long and has a maximum width of 118 miles. The 1,300 mile shoreline has 100 important indentations; Green Bay in the northwest and Grand Traverse Bay on the opposite shore. Both of these, with their wealth of beauty, are choice vacation lands.
The sounding line let out in Lake Michigan opposite the entrance to Green Bay runs just short of 925 feet. Its area of 22,400 square miles is exceeded by both Superior and Huron but only Superior has a greater volume of water.
BOTH MICHIGAN and Huron are just a little short of 586 feet above sea level. Glibly enough,

BHAM ECCENTRIC
2 Thursday, September 15, 1955
Michigan, although its average level is half an inch lower, drains into Huron by way of the historic Straits of Mackinac.
Mackinac Island, whose Grand Hotel boasts the longest porch in the world, guards the Straits. It is the remnant of an earlier Indian civilization complete with an ancient fort built by the English in 1786.
Taking the place of motor transportation in the "surrey with the fringe on top". The island was a favorite meeting place for the Red men and it held a strategic position in the opening up of the northwest. It also boasts the most powerful lighthouse in inland waters, 3,000,000 candle power.
Today Lake Michigan harbors such important cities as Milwaukee, Wis., Gary, Ind., Escanaba, Mich., and Chicago Ill.
It is the gateway to minerals, forest products, cattle and grain and the highway for marketing the manufacturing entailed by such rich natural resources.
Three centuries have passed since Jean Nicolet first saw Lake Michigan. If he could return today his disappointment at not finding a northwest passage to China would be swallowed up in victory. tops.



MARGARET DE BEAUBIEN

Sets October Wedding Date

Mr. and Mrs. William J. de Beaubien of Madison avenue announce the engagement of their daughter, Margaret Jean, to Frederick Burro of Westford, Mass.
Margaret was graduated from Birmingham high school and attended the University of New Hampshire. Her fiance is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts.
The wedding is planned for October 8.

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Fishing in Thumb
Wild Fowl Bay near Caseville in the Thumb will be yielding its fish to Birmingham fisher folk this week. Mr. and Mrs. Grant Capling of 560 Watkins are spending their second week at the Bay at their north-west passage to China cottage, where fishing is, they say, would be swallowed up in victory. tops.

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