tlight kisses the gentle waves in his search for an a setting sun. A skilled gray heron in low-level bluffs. The water sparkles in the crimson rays of the great, glassy river through the high limestone Spend a twilight hour on the road, rambling with

promises a perfect end to a perfect day. come glimmer of the next friendly river town the great curve of shimmering water, the welheadlights and fireflies. In the distance, beyond sional barge or houseboat mingle with highway Along the river, the running lights of an occatime to find a home-cookin' cafe and a cozy motel. kid's are fading faster than the setting sun and it's adventure and discovery. In the back seat, the day on Wisconsin's Great River Road, filled with gray-tones of darkness. It's been another exciting western sky dims through golden hues to the picnickers pause in silent appreciation as the looks and way-sides high atop the river bluffs, fisherman casts for striped bass. From scenic out-As you round a crescent river bend a solitary

the prices are reasonable and the people friendly. scenic drive. You'll find quaint river towns where north. Enjoy 300 miles of what is quite possibly Dickeyville in the south to St. Croix Falls in the

TRAVELING WISCONSIN'S GREAT RIVER ROAD!

Road is a delight in any season!

blended to perfection.

amber hues of autumn, Wisconsin's Great River

in the new-green brilliance of spring or the white

ly; a marvelous mix of natural beauty and history

mantle of winter, in summer sunlight or the

Tourism Photo File

SETTLING THE GREAT RIVER

Native Americans were, of course, the first inhabitant of the Upper Mississippi River Valley. Indian tribes including the Chippewa, Winnebago, Menominee, Ottawa and Potawatomie wove the river's resources into the fabric of their lives.

GREAT RIVER ROAD

E THREAT BENT

SINISNOOSIM

In the early 17th century, French explorers and missionaries were among the first Europeans to view the area - men like Jean Nicolet, Fr. James Marguette and Louis Joliet. French fur traders followed. By 1650, they were doing a brisk business with area Indians. Spring and summer "rendezvous" at Prairie du Chien and La Crosse brought thousands of beaver, muskrat and raccoon pelts to be bartered for iron axes, tinware, glass beads and colorful cloth. Fur trade continued for the next two centuries, with the river serving as the means to transport the goods to market.

In 1690, Nicholas Perrot discovered southwestern Wisconsin's first lead mine in what is now Potosi. Local Indians used their stone axes to chip out the lead crystals which they traded to the French. The discovery lay dormant, however, until the early nineteenth century when southwestern Wisconsin became the center of the 1820s "lead rush."

Lead miners from Kentucky and Missouri, pursuing the ore Nicholas Perrot had discovered 130 years earlier, built some of the first permanent settlements in Wisconsin. By 1850, the area embraced more than 10,000 hand-dug lead mines, supplying more than half of the nation's lead supply. Mississippi riverboats carried Wisconsin lead throughout the expanding nation.

A second population wave swept Wisconsin's Great River Road in the 1880s as the state's pine forests supplied the lumber to build the Midwest. For twenty years, solid rafts of logs 50' x 500' (called "brails") floated out of Wisconsin pineries down the Chippewa, Black, Eau Claire and St. Croix Rivers to the mighty Mississippi. Dozens of sawmills along the river from Alma to La Crosse cut the sawlogs into rough dimensional lumber. A fleet of riverboats carried the lumber down the Mississippi to market.



ways the lumberjacks had built along the riverbank. With the railroad came farmers and merchants, carpenters and tailors, section hands, blacksmiths and bankers - all following the Great River Road to a home on the Mississippi.

NAVIGATING THE GREAT RIVER



Lock & Dam No. 11 near Dickeyville.

Since the days of the Indian canoe and the pioneer keelboat, the Mississippi River has served as a great water highway, linking the heartland of the United States with the rest of the world.

However, river transportation was not always reliable. Floods, snags and shifting sandbars made river travel quite dangerous.

As early as 1830, Congress began efforts to improve navigation on the Upper Mississippi. Over the next 100 years, river traffic mushroomed as new channels were dredged. Snags and rapids were dynamited. Water levels were raised and stabilized with hundreds of wing dams to restrict water flow to a narrower, deeper channel.

The dawn of the twentieth century brought larger barges and tow boats to the upper river that required deeper water. In 1930, Congress directed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop and maintain a 9-foot deep, 400-foot wide navigation channel on the Upper Mississippi from St. Louis, Missouri to St. Paul Minnesota.

To accomplish that mission, the Corps designed and built the lock and dam system that today directs the waters of the upper river. Most of the system's 27 lock

the north Each dam pools the water above it to a navigable depth. Locks, adjacent to each dam, alternately lift vessels to upstream pools or lower them to downstream pools. Most of the locks in the system are the same size: 110' x 600'. The height that a vessel is lifted or lowered varies from 5.5 feet to 49.2 feet. They are

all gravity powered and are fascinating to watch. In effect, the lock and dam system acts as steps along the river. In the 669 miles between St. Paul and St. Louis, the locks and dams lower the river through about 420 feet of elevation. The system of 27 locks and dams on the Upper Mississippi is an engineering marvel, creating not only an unparalleled transportation system, but a unique

recreation resource as well.



The lock & dam system tamed the riverway.



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Front Cover Photo by Dan Wicha

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50 W. First St. Wew Richmond, WI 54017

New Richmond Area

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BARGES BARGES

Ireight are quite common. comprised of 12 to 15 barges totaling 20,000 tons of smounts of freight up and down the Mississippi. Tows Today's powerful diesel towboats guide enormous

central and southern Illinois and western Kentucky. also headed upstream, mainly from the coal fields of Texas and Louisiana. Enormous shipments of coal are Inbricating oil headed upriver from the oil fields of petroleum products; gasoline, kerosene, fuel oil and The largest tonnage items moved on the river are

it is loaded aboard ocean freighters for overseas downstream, much of it going to New Orleans where barges from riverside elevators, the grain is shipped principal product shipped downriver. Loaded onto Grain - corn, wheat, oats, barley and rye - is the

ingots and plate, sugar and dehydrated molasses. steel products, fertilizers, sulfur, cement, aluminum nage. Other products in smaller volume are: iron and Scrap iron ranks second to grain in downstream ton-



Yourism Photo File

Photo by Dan Wicka A tow boat skipper guides barges through a river lock.

ley in New York. For a sample of local history, visit the Ocnamed for its physical resemblance to the Hudson River Valthrough Kinnickinnic State Park to Hudson, which was 20 HUDSON – From Prescott, take Cty. F north

Meadows Greyhound Park opened in June of 1991, with attractions - exciting Greyhound racing! The St. Croix 94-east. Hudson is also the site of one of Wisconsin's newest October, is located in Hudson at Rest Area 25 on Interstate A Wisconsin Information Center, open May through lance, and art exhibitions. The Center is open year 'round. Center for the Arts offers theatrical productions, concerts, agon House, open May through October. The Phipps

Just north of Hudson take Cty. A to Willow River State

bathing suit, grab the kids and enjoy the vacation memory Somerset, the "Tubing Capital of the World"! Bring your to Houlton where you can pick-up Hwy. 35/64 northeast to 30 SOMERSET – From Hudson travel Hwy. 95 north



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through the rolling hills and dalles of western .19879moo

Ferryville, Trempealeau, Fountain City and Towns with inviting names like Tennyson and one in 25,000 produces a small, asymmetrical pearl Pearls in freshwater clams are very rare — only the Midwest's most undiscovered, undersung lets are inserted into saltwater clams to start the forma-

Wisconsin's Great River Road offers some of worth about \$1,500.

pi and St. Croix Rivers as they tumble southward Wisconsin's Great River Road flanks the Mississip-

KIVER TIDBITS

Great River Road. While the Mississippi Lakes are tew and tar between along the

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-miws brevides plenty of boating, fishing and swim-

river beaches are noted in the accompanying Great bns slood gnimmiws to noitsool adT .slood gnimmiws ming, many river communities also built municipal

In some areas, river bluffs rise more than 500 River Road narrative.

on the narrow banks between the bluffs and

tliud arove the Mississippi. Towns were built

the water. As a result, many river towns are only one

or two streets wide — yet they are several miles long!

barges anchored in the river channels. For a Many river towns offer fishing platforms or

small fee, power launches will transport you

Wisconsin enjoyed a thriving lead mining infor day or night fishing. Check it out — fishing is excel-

nənw 8481 litnu iqqississiM ənti gnola vitsub 👯 lent along Wisconsin's Great River Road.

thousands of miners west. the California Gold Rush lured tens of

river port of New Orleans. By the mid-1800s, 'Clermont'', began sailing in and around the In 1811, Robert Fulton's first steamboat, the

for freshwater clams. In the past, clam shells were used Clam barges and divers scour the riverbottom . Upper Mississippi has experienced a rebirth. Over the past thirty years, clamming along the ".n99uQ ueen" and the "Delta Queen." great steamboats of yesteryear still grace the river: the and freight on the Mississippi River. Today, only two more than 1,100 steamboats were ferrying passengers

tion of pearls. pellets and sold to the Japanese to culture pearls. Pelto make buttons. Today, shells are ground into small

. pen mid-May through September.

Visconsin's Great River Road. Croix Falls is a fitting place to pause on your journey along At the doorstep to Wisconsin's great Northwoods, St.

hospitality of Wisconsin's western border, And while you've sampled the beauty and

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Tourism Photo File



and dam sites were built between 1930 and 1940. Ten

of those sites are located along Wisconsin's Great River

Road between Dickeyville in the south and Prescott in

.lbəm gning weal.

Trace Wisconsin's western border from

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It is nightfall on the river . . . Wisconsin's Great



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merce for a map of the Osceola Historical Walking Tour. tour a state fish hatchery. Stop at the local Chamber of Com-Osceola, named for a famous Seminole chief, where you can 3 OSCEOLA - From Somerset take Hwy. 35 north to

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The south end of the city's business district includes an un-

Croix Falls. Just before reaching town, visit Interstate Park 32 ST. CROIX FALLS - Continue on Hwy. 35 to St. usual attraction — a breathtaking waterfall!

tour the **lce Age Interpretive Center**, which features - Wisconsin's first state park created in 1900. Here you can

age of glaciers. Both the park and the center are open year photographs, murals, a film and other information about the

town, has exhibits on logging and early settlers and a movie National Scenic Riverway. The Center, at the north end of St. Croix Falls is also the headquarters of the St. Croix he St. Croix River. round. Visit the Dalles of the St. Croix, a deep gorge cut by

Ross Park to see its excellent wildlife display. The park is Betore leaving St. Croix Falls, be sure to visit Fawn Doe year 'round, they'll also help plan canoe trips in the area. called "St. Croix Reflections" that is shown on request. Open





about 100,000 to 10,000 years ago. glacial epoch - the Wisconsin Glaciation lasting from has lent its name to North America's most recent and eastern two-thirds of Wisconsin. Indeed, the state ice sheets advanced and retreated across the northern Many times during the past two million years, colossal

sparkling lakes among the pine forests. buried — and later melted — creating thousands of ern Wisconsin, enormous chunks of glacial ice were state's central and southeastern farm country. In northcreated the gentle, rolling hills and plateaus of the (called "drift") in front of them. This glacial action As the glaciers scoured the terrain, they pushed debris

beauty flows the Mississippi River. never leveled by the glaciers. Through this pristine area. It is a land of deep valleys, ridges and bluffs touched by the glaciers . . . and is called the "driftless" Wisconsin's southwestern corner, however, was un-

through which the river courses. Mississippi, creating the spectacular blufts and dalles the melting glaciers have eroded the gorge of the and limestone. Through the ages, the floodwaters of sediments laid down alternating layers of sandstone ancient oceans 300-600 million years ago. Ocean Wisconsin's Mississippi River Valley was covered by

enchanting history and natural beauty. The Great River Road is your gateway to this land of

THE ST. CROIX NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAY

UISUODSIN Riverway flowing through pristine northwestern Croix River. Enjoy 250 miles of Vational Scenic Coast with an exciting tour of the sparkling St. Continue your adventure along Wisconsin's West

unit and the the the big runter

destinations.

i full racing schedule.

Park, open year 'round

of a lifetime as you splash away a hot day "tubing" the Apple



Wisconsin trails offer surprises around every bend.





Tourism Photo File Fishin' is great all along the river!



La Crosse Jazz Festival.

Tourism staff photo by Stan Solheim

year 'round.

open daily June through Labor Day.

miles east of the river. From the lookout, you can see thirty miles downriver into both Minnesota and Iowa. For bikers and hikers, La Crosse is the crossroads of two important trail systems: The Great River State Trail runs north 22.5 miles to Trempealeau and Perrot State Park crossing 18 bridges as it winds its way through the backwaters of the Mississippi; and the La Crosse River Bike Trail runs 23.5 miles east along the shimmering banks of the La Crosse River to Sparta. At Sparta, bikers can connect with the nationally-famous Elroy-Sparta Bike Trail offering recreationalists nearly 75 miles of hiking and biking through some of Wisconsin's finest scenery, plus three railroad tunnels between Sparta and Elroy.

small waterfall.

18 TREMPEALEAU — The village is named after Trempealeau Mountain - a navigational landmark used by the early French fur traders. Main Street, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, dates from the 1890s. An 1888 fire destroyed the town's original business district leaving the historic **Trempealeau Hotel** the only

surviving structure.

Today, a full-service marina offers river access and The Van Loon Wildlife Area located east of Trem-

houseboat rentals. An observation area is available for those who wish to watch the operation of the river locks. The Trempealeau Lakes, a chain of seven small spring-fed lakes, are popular for fishing and canoeing. The village also offers an outdoor, olympic-size swimming pool as well as the sandbars of the Mississippi for summertime swimmin'. pealeau and used primarily for deer and waterfowl hunting, provides fishing, canoeing and primitive camping. The 6-1/2



Follow one of the world's truly great rivers as it rambles along Wisconsin's western border carving frontier history and river-city charm from its bluffs of Mississippi limestone.

This is the Upper Mississippi. Distinctly different than it's lower half, it's as relaxing and beautiful as the Lower Mississippi is commercial and bustling. Take your time. Stop often. There's plenty to see and enjoy.

The tour description that follows begins at the southern end of Wisconsin's Great River Road and heads north. Your tour may run north-tosouth; or begin and end anywhere along the route. The information in this brochure allows you to design your own, personalized excursion.

DICKEYVILLE – In Wisconsin's southwest corner, at the intersection of Hwys. 151 and 61, lies Dickeyville, home of the Dickeyville Grotto. The shrine was constructed by Father Mathias Wernerus from colorful bits of stone, glass and shells gathered from throughout the world. Wernerus paid tribute to his God and country in this unusual piece of folk art. The grotto is open year 'round.

For an interesting side trip off the Great River Road, follow Hwy. 151 northeast from Dickeyville into Lafayette and Iowa Counties.

Stop in **Platteville** where attractions include tours of the old Bevins Lead Mine and Rollo Jamison Museum. The University of Wisconsin-Platteville hosts an excellent summer Shakespeare Festival and is also the site of the Chicago Bears' spring training camp.

Traveling further along Hwy. 151, stop in Belmont, site of Wisconsin's first capitol. Visit Pendarvis in Mineral Point, a Wisconsin State Historical Site preserving the heritage of the Cornish miners who were among the state's first settlers. Be sure to visit House on the Rock, one of Wisconsin's premier attractions near Dodgeville, and Frank Lloyd Wright's "Taliesin" near Spring Green, a world-class architectural treasure.

2 TENNYSON – Back on the Great River Road, follow Hwy. 61 north from Dickeyville to Tennyson, (originally named "Dutch Hollow"), one of a dozen communities that grew up 150 years ago around more than 10,000 hand-dug lead mines that operated in the area. The region produced virtually all of the lead shot for the Northern forces during the Civil War.

3 POTOSI – From Tennyson follow Hwy. 61 north to Hwy. 133 to Potosi, the "Catfish Capital of Wisconsin." You can't get lost in Potosi. The town has just one street (Main Street) and it's three miles long! For more mining history, check with the **St. John Lead Mine** for a self-guided tour of 40 local sites dating back to the 1827 "lead rush". Tour the mine, which is thought to be the oldest in the state. It was hand-dug and worked by Indians before the first settlers arrived. The mine is open daily May through October.

Two miles south of Potosi, just off Hwy. 133, is the Grant River Recreation Area & Park. Administered by the Army Corps of Engineers, it includes a well-developed, modern campground open Mid-April through Mid-October.

4 CASSVILLE – Follow Hwy. 133 west to Cassville, the site of Stonefield Village and Nelson Dewey State Park. Cassville was the site of the first territorial legislature of Wisconsin and was an important steamboat center. Today, Cassville boasts a large swimming pool, a beautiful river park and a marina. If you've never ridden on a car ferry, now is the time. The Cassville Car Ferry is the fun way to cross the Mississippi – and return for more great touring along

Wisconsin's Great River Road! The ferry operates May through October.

Just north of Cassville on Cty. VV lies **Stonefield** Village, a replica of an 1890s frontier village operated by costumed guides from the State Historical Society. The village features horsedrawn carriages and a beautiful covered bridge. Open daily May through October, the complex includes five original buildings from the Nelson Dewey homestead, home of Wisconsin's first governor. Just across the street, wooded family campsites and spectacular river bluffs are available at Nelson Dewey State Park, open year 'round.

Continue north on Cty. VV to Duncan Road, then turn west to the **Eagle Nature Preserve**. The preserve is a haven for migrating eagles. In mid-winter, nearly 1,000 eagles roost on the nearby islands in the Mississippi.

5 BAGLEY – Follow Cty. VV north taking in spectacular views of the Mississippi River and the bluffs and hollows of its shoreline. At Cty. A turn northwest to Bagley, a robust river town with large campgrounds on either end of the village.

6 WYALUSING – Follow Cty. X to the Village of Wyalusing offering an excellent sand beach in the village park along the river.

Just north of Wyalusing, be sure to visit Wyalusing State Park, open year 'round. Here you can enjoy excellent camping facilities, hiking trails and picnic grounds. Watch for wild turkeys, turkey vultures, eagles and migratory birds as well as deer, raccoon and opossum in this 2700-acre park. Huge Indian mounds line the Sentinel Ridge Walk and from a cliff overlook you can observe the confluence of two magnificent rivers, the Mississippi and the Wisconsin. Hiking trails lead to interesting rock formations and canyons. There is a marked canoe route that winds through ten miles of river islands

7 PRAIRIE DU CHIEN – Follow Cty. X to Cty. C to Hwy, 18 west through Bridgeport to Prairie du Chien. Stop at the Wisconsin Tourism Information Center to learn about the area's attractions. The center is open May through

Prairie du Chien is the second-oldest settlement in Wisconsin, (second only to Green Bay). In the early 19th century, the American Fur Trading Company built the sturdy stone warehouses which still survive on historic St. Feriole **Island.** Remnants of the old American Fort, built to protect this outpost, also survive.

Fabulous fur fortunes were made in the area. One such fortune built Villa Louis, an 1870s mansion built by Wisconsin's first millionaire, Hercules Dousman. The villa is an opulent Victorian estate with one of the nation's finest collections of Victorian decorative arts. It is now owned and operated by the State Historical Society and is open daily May through October.

Behind Villa Louis, along the river bank, enjoy the St. Feriole Island Railroad - where a variety of boardwalk shops fill restored rail cars. Nearby, Lawler Park offers delightful river walks and an excellent swimming beach. The island also boasts a fine 80-slip marina.

See medical history from the 1800s and an exhibit of medical quackery at the Fort Crawford Medical Museum. Open May through October the museum houses relics of 19th century medicine in Wisconsin including displays of Indian herbal remedies, an old-fashioned drug store, dentist and doctor's office.

Take a tour of the town in a horse and carriage from J & D Livery. Or, view the Mississippi River aboard local excursion boats which operate from Memorial Day through October

For a subterranean sidetrip, follow Hwy. 60 east to Wauzeka and the Kickapoo Indian Caverns. Open mid-May through October, the caverns are the largest underground caves in Wisconsin and once sheltered local Indians. They were re-discovered by lead miners in the 1800s.

B LYNXVILLE – From Wauzeka, travel Cty. N west

to return to the Great River Road. Drive north along Hwy. 35 to Lynxville, once a busy rail center. Watch the river traffic pass through Lock and Dam No. 9.

For another interesting side trip, follow Hwy. 171 east to Gays Mills. This is apple country and you'll soon find yourself surrounded by orchards. The best times to visit Gays Mills are in the spring for the blossoms and in the fall for the apples. The city celebrates both with appropriate festivals. Stop at the Log Cabin Village, open May through October, to tour a collection of original historic buildings from the area.

Follow Hwy. 131 northeast to Soldiers Grove, a solar-powered community. In 1978, a disastrous flood destroyed the village. Afterwards, the business district was relocated and an energy-efficient community was created using solar power. At Solar Town Center, all of the buildings are designed to capture at least 50 percent of their heat from the sun.

9 FERRYVILLE — Retrace your steps to the Great River Road and continue north on Hwy. 35 to Ferryville. the longest one-street village in the world. The village clings to the bluffs along the river, leaving barely enough room for Hwy. 35 and the railroad tracks. For a special treat, stop and sample some of Wisconsin's famous cheese at the Ferryville **Cheese Factory.**

DESOTO – This tiny village has the distinction of being located in two counties and is named for the famous Spanish explorer Fernando DeSoto, the first European to see the Mississippi River.

North of DeSoto and just south of the Village of Victory on Hwy. 35, visit Blackhawk Park. Operated by the Army Corps of Engineers, the park has direct access to the main channel of the river and is open year 'round.

U VICTORY – Just north of the park, the village of Victory is the site of the decisive battle of the Black Hawk War of 1832 in which Chief Black Hawk and his band of Fox and Sac Indians were defeated. Zachary Taylor, Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis all served in the war as young army officers.

At the mouth of the Bad Ax River about three miles north of Victory, you can tour the rearing ponds of a National Fish Hatchery

12 GENOA – A village of 283, Genoa was originally named Bad Ax. But in 1868, Italian immigrants rechristened the town in honor of Christopher Columbus. On the south side of the village, visitors can see Lock & Dam No. 8 from a viewer platform. Nearby, a wayside park offers a scenic overlook and a historical marker describes the navigational lock and dam system. Genoa is the home port of several commercial fishing operations and two fresh fish markets. Two miles north of Genoa, **Old Settlers Overlook** allows you to drive to the top of the bluffs and view the river from your auto. Three states are visible: Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa, Picnic tables, grills, water, toilets and a shelter house make this a fine rest stop.

13 STODDARD — The town was originally located inland from the main river channel along the sandy delta of Coon Creek. However, the construction of the Genoa Lock and Dam in 1937 flooded 18,000 acres of delta farmland and brought the river to Stoddard. The village of 760 offers a fine river beach at Stoddard Park as well as a marina and campground.

As a short side trip, follow Hwy. 162 east from Stoddard through Chaseburg to **Coon Valley**, home of Norskedalen, a 350-acre arboretum offering a historic glimpse of the lives of the area's Norwegian pioneers. Costumed volunteers guide you through a museum, cultural center, blacksmith shop, and authentic Norwegian log homes and farm buildings. The Norskedalen complex is open daily through the summer

From Coon Valley, return to the Great River Road by traveling west on Hwys. 14/61. Five miles south of La Crosse visit Goose Island County Park. The park spreads out over several islands in the river and offers more than 400 campsites and a fine swimming beach.

14 LA CROSSE – La Crosse is, by far, Wisconsin's largest city on the Mississippi. Located at the confluence of three rivers, the city spreads out on a broad plain that was a natural rendezvous site for Indians and fur traders.

Within ten years of its founding, La Crosse became known as the "Gateway City," a focal point for river traffic, stage routes and the railroad. The city rapidly became a major port with as many as two hundred boats stopping in La Crosse in a month.



Ride the mine train at the Platteville Mining Museum. Tourism Photo File

Stonefield Village, Cassville.

Bob Granflaten, SHS





"Wisconsin . . . You're Among Friends!

Today, La Crosse is a lively, attractive city offering a host of vacation adventures. A Wisconsin Travel Information Center is located in La Crosse at Rest Area 31

on Interstate 90-east. And check with the La Crosse Convention and Visitors Bureau, located in the city's beautiful Riverside Park. The park is also the home of **"Riverside**" USA," an animated exhibit describing life on the Mississippi. Enjoy a river excursion aboard the sternwheeler "La Crosse Queen," docked nearby, or the Island Girl Cruiseliner. Boat tours are offered May through October.

In the downtown area, **Pettibone Park** — on Barron Island — offers a delightful swimming beach and bathhouse surrounded by the Mississippi River. Myrick Park, near the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse campus, has Indian mounds, a playground, kiddie rides, and a children's zoo.

At the **Pump House Regional Center for the Arts**, open year 'round, you can pick up information on local arts activities and performances. Two tours, complete with samples, tempt the visitor: **Christina Winery** offers a look at local winemaking; and the **G. Heileman Brewery** offers tours with samples of their beers for the thirsty tourist. Don't miss the world's largest six-pack! Both tours are available

Open all year, the Swarthout Museum provides a firstrate glimpse of local history. **Hixon House**, another historic treasure, is unique in that it is furnished today exactly as it was when the Hixon family left it in the 1800s. The house is

From an elevation of 1,172-feet, Granddad Bluff, tallest of the rocky bluffs overlooking the city, offers magnificent views of the Mississippi River Valley from a park about two

15 ONALASKA – Just north of La Crosse, the city of Onalaska has access to the Mississippi and to Lake **Onalaska** (Pool No. 7). The Wisconsin DNR reports that more fish are caught in Lake Onalaska than in any other pool on the Mississippi. On the north end of the city, you can enjoy a beach and bathhouse at Black River Beach.

For a fascinating sidetrip, follow Interstate Highway I-90 east to West Salem, where you can tour the boyhood home of Wisconsin author Hamlin Garlin. Thirteen miles further east brings you to Sparta, home of one of the nation's premier bicycle trails featuring three railway tunnels along its 35-mile grade. Follow Hwy. 21 northeast to Fort McCoy, the nation's largest Army Reserve and on center. The 60,000-acre military post is oper for tours offering a recreation area on Squaw Lake and a

16 MIDWAY – Backtrack to Hwy. 35 and continue your journey along Wisconsin's Great River Road. Five miles north of Onalaska, Midway is the home of two interesting river sidelights. The Circle D Buffalo Ranch there is one of the most successful commercial buffalo ranches in the country with a herd of 300 American Bison. Midway is also the site of an important, and on-going, archaeological excavation documenting the **Oneta Indians** who lived and farmed in the area more than 500 years ago.

W HOLMEN — Just north on Hwy. 35, stop at the County Park in Holmen to find picnic sites, a shelter, hiking trails and a lovely foot bridge over Halfway Creek Ravine.

square mile refuge is the location of the historic McGilvray Road with its five steel bowstring, arch-truss bridges now being restored by the Wisconsin DNR.

West of Trempealeau is Perrot State Park, named after French explorer Nicholas Perrot, who built a trading post here in 1665. Located where the Trempealeau and Mississippi Rivers meet, the park's 500-foot river bluffs afford breathtaking views. Burial and ceremonial mounds can be found in the park as well as petroglyphs marking the equinox and summer solstice. The park is open all year.

Four miles north of Perrot State Park you'll find the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge. Managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the 6,000-acre refuge hugs the banks of the Mississippi. Its wetlands are home to a wide range of waterfowl including ducks, geese, herons and egrets. It is not unusual to observe the flight of the refuge's most important resident - the American Bald Eagle. The refuge is open daily during daylight hours.

From Trempealeau, take a short 7-mile sidetrip inland via Cty. K and Hwys. 93/54 to visit charming Galesville. Founded in 1853 along the bluffs of Beaver Creek and the banks of Lake Marinuka, Galesville offers many lovely Victorian homes, a bluff park with a swinging footbridge, and the historic A.A. Arnold Eastside Farm. The city is inged by apple orchards which thrive in the moretemperate climates of the Trempealeau Plain, surrounded by a great circle of river bluffs. In 1869, the surpassing beauty of the area led a Galesville minister, Rev. Slyke, to publish a booklet, "Garden of Eden", in which he put forth the theory that the Trempealeau Plain was indeed, the Biblical Garden of Eden.

19 FOUNTAIN CITY – Return to Hwy. 35 at Centerville and follow the Great River Road north to Fountain City. One of Wisconsin's most-picturesque river towns, the city clings to 550-foot Eagle Bluff and Indian Head Rock. Fountain City is a maintenance depot for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The large dredging barge and other work boats harbored here are used to maintain a 9-foot deep navigational channel on the Upper Mississippi. Two miles north of Fountain City enjoy the delights of Merrick State Park, open all year.

20 COCHRANE – Continue north on Hwy. 35 to Cochrane. Stop at Goose Lake Memorial Park. It's a great picnic spot with a swimming pool and a shelter house.

21 BUFFALO – Buffalo is Wisconsin's smallest incorporated city. Known as the "City of Parks", Buffalo boasts seven public parks as well as a campground and full-service marina

22 ALMA – Alma is the next stop north with many charming, waterfront shops and elegant, turn-of-the-century homes. The entire city is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Visitors will enjoy the charming waterfront

Built by Swiss settlers, Alma is nestled in a narrow corfeet above the Mississippi. The city is only two streets wide but it's seven miles long! The downtown offers an observation deck at Lock and Dam No. 4. As the lock is flooded, watch as the huge barges are lifted to the level above the

Alma includes two marinas, two full-service campgrounds, a municipal pool, a delightful 300-foot sand beach along the river, and excellent fishing. Hike or drive up to Buena Vista Park, located on the bluffs above the river providing a fantastic view. In the fall, stop at Rieck's Lake Park just north of Alma to see hundreds of migrating Tundra Swans

WELSON — Stop to tour the Nelson Cheese **Factory** and taste Wisconsin's rich dairy heritage. **Castleberg Park** on the south end of town is a favorite picnic spot.

For an exciting sidetrip, head north from Nelson on Hwy. 25. The road follows the enchanting Chippewa River through Durand to **Downsville** where you can tour a wonderful logging museum as well as Caddie Woodlawn County Park — named for the famous children's book. Eight miles further north on Hwy. 25 brings you to Menomonie, home of the beautifully-restored Mabel Tainter Memorial Building & Theater, as well as two excellent museums of local history. Menomonie is also the gateway to the Red Cedar State Trail for panoramic hiking and biking; and the Hoffman Hills State Recreation al Area. Head west from Menomonie on Hwy. 29 to Spring Valley and tour Crystal Cave, with more than 30 'rooms" to explore.

From Nelson head north on Hwy. 35 past the **Tiffany** Wildlife Area and the mouth of the Chippewa River.

PEPIN – Pepin is proud to be the birthplace of Laura

enormously popular "Little House" books. The village park has been named for her and a memorial has been erected there in her honor. The park also houses the Pepin Railroad Museum. Downtown, the Pepin Historical Museum focuses on local history and the Wilder legacy. Pepin also boasts a marina, a municipal swimming beach, and village courtesy dock.

the Little House Wayside, open year 'round. Located on a 3-acre site, you'll find a replica of the "Little House in the Big

Woods" — the log cabin Wilder describes in her childhood memories of the Pepin area.

25 STOCKHOLM – Stockholm is a picturesque village located midway along the shores of Lake Pepin. Buildings in the business district date from the 1860s and 1870s. The Stockholm Institute preserves local history and the landmark Stockholm Cafe sells tickets aboard "The Spirit of Lake City", a replica of an 1800s sidewheeler offering tours of the lake.

25

The village park has campsites, a boat ramp and swimming area. Just south of the village, a scenic overlook marks the site of historic Fort St. Antoine, built by Nicholas Perrot in 1689 to demonstrate French control over the Upper Mississippi River basin and the Northwest Territory.

26 MAIDEN ROCK – Seven miles further north on Hwy. 35, stop in the village of Maiden Rock. The local grocery store displays a collection of 400 dolls and the Old School House Arts Center offers original pottery, paintings and sculpture in a historic school building. Camping is available at the Maiden Rock Campground and Picnic Area.

27 BAY CITY - Eight miles north of Maiden Rock, Bay City stands at the head of Lake Pepin. The village park includes first-rate camping facilities. Just south of the city, the Bay City Silica Mine can be seen from Hwy. 35.

28 PRESCOTT — The Great River Road continues on through the enchanting river towns of Hager City and Diamond Bluff to Prescott where you'll find the confluence of the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers. The city is one of the oldest river towns on the Wisconsin shore, dating from 1839. The area includes ancient Indian mounds and was once the site of a famous battle between the Sioux and Chippewa Indian tribes.

Stop to picnic at Mercord Mill Park beneath Prescott's unique lift bridge over the St. Croix River. From the park, you can clearly see the color line in the water where the blue waters of the St. Croix meet the muddy Mississippi. Prescott is very much a river town with full service marinas, houseboat rental opportunities and excellent fishing. A self-guided walking tour reveals the city's historic beauty. The city's riverfront includes two fine beaches and a delightful river walk.

Follow Cty. F due north four miles along the St. Croix River to Kinnickinnic State Park. Open year 'round, the park is a water playground offering a mile-long sandy beach and a 70-acre sand delta in the St. Croix River.

At Prescott, Wisconsin's Great River Road ends as the Mississippi turns northwest into Minnesota. However, the magic of Wisconsin's "West Coast" continues along the blue-water shores of the St. Croix River. The St. Croix has been designated a National Scenic Riverway for good reason - it offers spectacular dalles and pristine vistas along its 250-mile length.

To continue your adventure along Wisconsin's "West Coast" please refer to the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway portion of this brochure.

> For FREE statewide travel literature call 1-800-432-TRIP



Ingalls Wilder, author of the

Seven miles northwest of Pepin on Cty. CC, visit



Tourism staff photo by Gary Knowles

Mississippi sandbars — a boater's delight!

Tourism staff photo by Gary Knowles

