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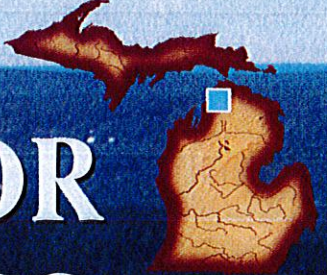
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HARBOR SPRINGS, MICHIGAN

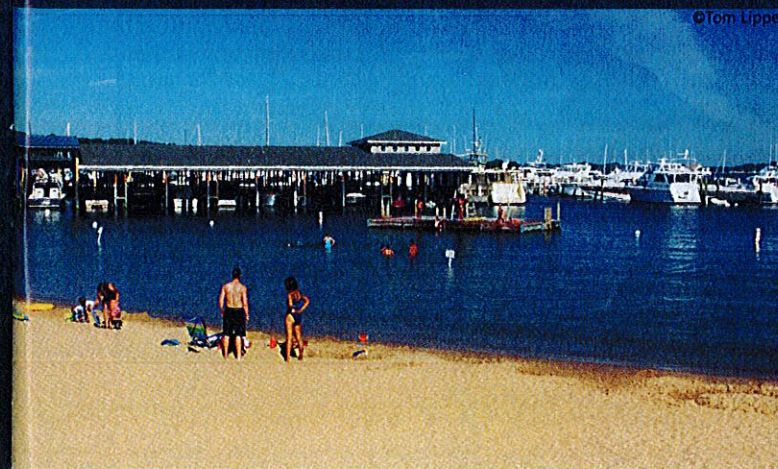
Beauty by the Bay

by Laurel-Hilde Lippert
photos by Tom Lippert
aerial photos by George A. Kounis

Hold up your left hand, fingers together. That's Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Now, point to the top of the ring finger. That's where you'll find Harbor Springs, at the "tip of the mitt" in Lake Michigan's Little Traverse Bay, the Great Lakes' deepest and perhaps most beautiful harbor. Silly, you might say, but that's how we described Michigan while growing up there. Many years later, I was inspired to see an old college friend who has a summer cottage at the tip of the mitt. As my husband Tom and I flew our Cessna 170 south between Boyne Mountain and Nub's Nob ski areas, we soon

spotted Little Traverse Bay where white sails dotted the dark blue seascape; the town of Harbor Springs, like a necklace of colorful stones, encircled the harbor.

Within a day, we had a list of things to see and do that would keep us busy for at least a week. The clear water beckoned us to kayak and swim; trails for hiking and biking were abundant; raspberry picking (and eating) with the kids was a must; golfing was a tempting option; and the history of Harbor Springs preserved in its shops and restaurants would be fun to explore. It was a Michigan I could have never imagined looking at my mittened hand.



Above: Thom Leveque, Jessica Ambats, and Tom Lippert cruise over the bay in a Cirrus SR22-G2.

Left: The sandy beach is a wonderful place to enjoy the waters of Lake Michigan.

Flying There

Northern Michigan is a busy place for airplanes in the summer. From Charlevoix, 16 nm southwest of Harbor Springs, to Mackinac Island, 29 nm north, pilots make frequent position reports, and get traffic advisories from Minneapolis Center on 134.6 MHz.

If you are flying from the west and plan to cross Lake Michigan, you can reduce your over-water distance to 15–20 nm by overflying Beaver Island (SJX) from Manistique (ISQ). Take advantage of the "Lake Reporting Service" available from Green Bay and Lansing FSS, who will initiate a search if they don't hear from you at frequent reporting points (usually every ten minutes). When you file a flight plan, ask to file a separate "Lake Reporting Flight Plan," and FSS will get additional information from you such as your intended altitude over the lake (minimum altitudes of 4,000–5,000 ft. MSL will be necessary for radio reception) and expected time to cross the lake.

If you wait until you're near the lake before filing, there may not be enough time for flight service to get your information into the system. Also, if you choose to fly across the lake in low visibility, even legal VFR, or a cloud stratus that puts you at a lower altitude than you intended, you can easily become disoriented and lose communications with flight service. Contact Green Bay FSS on 122.25 MHz near Manistique, and they will be your contact to the shoreline, unless they transfer you to Lansing FSS. The briefer can give you other frequencies, depending on where you depart the shoreline to cross Lake Michigan, and answer questions you may have about the Lake Reporting Service. More information on the Lake Reporting Service is at www.faa.gov/ATPubs/AIM/Chap4/aim0401.html#4-1-20.



Above: Flying past the Harbor Point Golf Course.
Left: On approach to Runway 10.

Grayling), 45 nm south of Harbor Springs. These two areas are generally active in the summer months, even before and beyond the published times. It's always a good idea to call flight service for an update before your departure.

When approaching Harbor Springs from the south, most pilots follow I-75. Along this route, avoid restricted areas R-4202 west of the highway (an artillery range that is active by NOTAM only), and R-4201 A and B east of the highway (where Air National Guard units practice near

Winds generally favor Runway 28, which is the calm-wind runway. For noise abatement, use the PAPIs at both ends of the runway for visual descent guidance. The airport requests that you keep your prop RPM to a safe minimum setting and

avoid low, dragged-in approaches and narrow traffic patterns. When using Runway 28, noise-sensitive areas are south of the final approach course and, when using Runway 10, avoid sensitive areas west and southwest of the final approach course. Call the airport for a copy of their noise abatement brochure or for more information, (231) 347-2812.

Deer are common, usually at dawn and dusk, so you may want to overfly the runway if arriving then. Also, watch for birds in the vicinity. AWOS is 119.925 MHz or (231) 347-5231. Landing fees of \$5 (single-engine) and \$10 (twin) are waived if you stay overnight; open 8 a.m. to dusk. After-hours service is expensive, but available, (231) 347-2812.

BAY VIEW, VICTORIAN VILLAGE

Bay View, across Little Traverse Bay from Harbor Springs, looks like a storybook: Victorian houses with gingerbread trim painted vibrant colors and embraced by wrap-around porches and flower boxes, sit on big lawns with luxuriant gardens. But it's real.

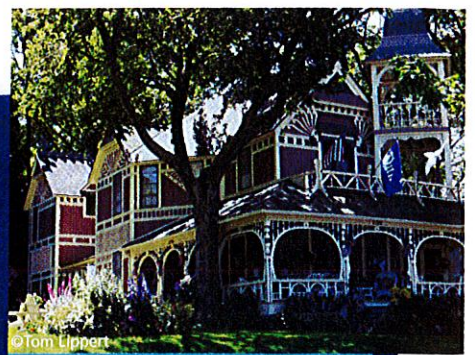
This idyllic lakefront site was selected by Methodists in 1875 for "revival meetings and spiritual refreshment." In little more than a decade, Bay View had a summer university, home study program, six public halls and auditoriums, and 20 Victorian cottages.

Today, Bay View is a National Historic Landmark with 436 privately-owned cottages, two inns, one B&B, and 30 buildings owned by the Bay View Association. Each summer, the Bay View Music Festival, self-touted as America's oldest existing music festival, features performances by new and seasoned talent. Theater productions, education seminars, recreation events, and religious programs round out the summer program, Jun 17–Aug 14, (231) 347-6225, www.bayviewfestival.org.

Don't miss Stafford's Bay View Inn, an exquisite three-story Victorian hotel overlooking the bay. Opened as a rooming house

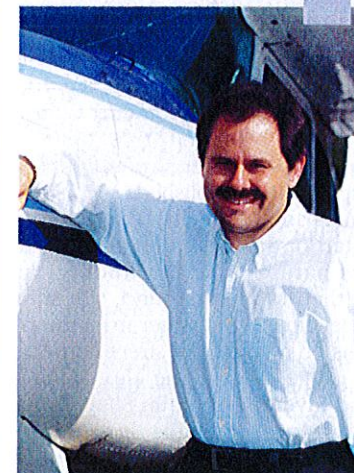
in 1887, it has 31 guest rooms, all remodeled with Victorian furnishings and private baths. Some have a sitting area, fireplace, and whirlpool tub, \$125–\$260 including full breakfast.

We had lunch in the bright and cheery dining room facing the bay. For starters, the yummy Chilled Cherry Soup, made with Michigan sweet and tart cherries, yogurt, cream, brandy, and spiced rum, was like "eating dessert first," \$4. The Cherry BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich, tender pork in homemade cherry barbecue sauce, topped with mozzarella cheese and thinly sliced red onion on a Kaiser roll, was delicious, \$8, 8–10:30 a.m., 12–2:30 p.m., & 5–9 pm. Mon–Sat, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. & 5–9 p.m. Sun, 2011 Woodland Ave., (231) 347-2771 or (800) 258-1886, www.thebayviewinn.com.



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History

Odawa and Chippewa tribes fished, trapped, and farmed in Northern Michigan for centuries before Europeans arrived. They shared the Algonquian language with the Pottawatomie tribe that lived farther south, and the words for their region were *micchi gami*, which means "large lake," from which the state got its name. When French fur traders arrived in the early 18th century, they discovered an abundance of mink, beaver, otter, and bobcat. They



©Tom Lippert

stayed and named many areas, including a settlement, now Harbor Springs, which they called *L'Arbre Croche*, or Crooked Tree, later changing its name to *Petit Traverse*, or Little Traverse.

More settlers moved into the area as logging became a vital industry in the mid-19th century. The first commercial operation in Little Traverse, Richard Cooper's trading post and general store, opened in 1853. A few years later, a post office and newspaper were established.

Sawmills and toothpick factories sprang up in Harbor Springs, so-named in 1880 after its natural artesian underground springs that flow year-round. (Be sure to try the delicious, cold water from the city's fountains on a couple of street corners.) A narrow gauge railroad, the idea of lumberman and inventor Ephraim Shay, brought wood into local sawmills. It also carried vacationers into town until the train was dismantled in 1912. Within another decade, logging waned, while tourism and recreation became the town's main industries.

Lake steamers also transported vacationers to their summer homes in Harbor Springs. Wealthy families built on Harbor Point, the narrow finger of land that forms the harbor, or Wequetonsing, another summer colony along the waterfront. Michigan families such as the Fords, the Gambles of Proctor & Gamble, the Upjohns, and the Offields of Wrigley's Gum built grand "cottages" here, and many are still owned by their descendants.

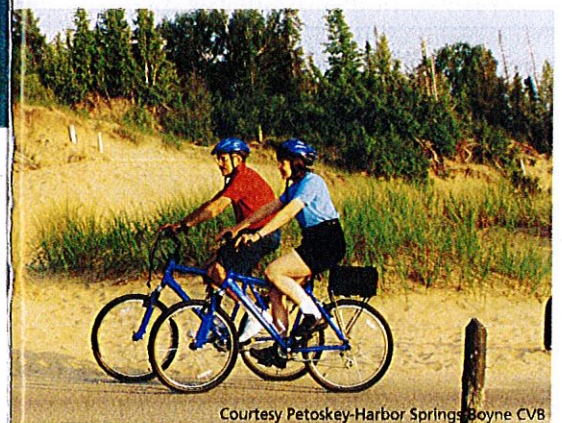
Harbor Springs' history is also alive and well in many downtown buildings, such as Juilleret's, Stafford's Pier, The New York Restaurant, and Turkey's, as well as hotels like the Colonial Inn and the Veranda at Harbor Springs.

The home of Chief Black Hawk, who changed his name to Andrew J. Blackbird,

was the site of Harbor Springs' first post office; Blackbird was its first postmaster. It is now the Andrew J. Blackbird Museum and displays Indian crafts and cultural artifacts, including poetry, art, and music, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon-Fri, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat, 368 E. Main St., (231) 526-0612.

What to Do

The Little Traverse Bay shoreline looks like a backwards "C." Tucked into a naturally sheltered harbor are the airport at the center and Harbor Springs near the top. For an overview of the harbor, bring your camera, climb the hill from the airport to East Bluff Drive, and follow the boardwalk. Multi-storied, gabled and turreted houses with roomy porches, shaded by beech, oak, and maple trees, are set on manicured lawns with gorgeous flower gardens.



Courtesy Petoskey-Harbor Springs-Boyne CVB

Once you get to Harbor Springs four miles west of the airport, you'll find that it's a great walking town. Down the hill, near the harbor lies the town center, with restaurants and small cafés interspersed amongst unusual galleries and gift shops, such as Northern Possessions, an American craft gallery with wearable art,



Outdoor activities vary from golfing at Little Traverse Bay Golf Club with water views (above) to kayaking on Little Traverse Bay (opposite), to biking along the North Country Trail (left).

10 a.m.-6 p.m. Thu-Mon, 129 E. Bay St., (231) 526-7330.

Stroll along the harbor and watch the boats come and go from the marina. According to Harbor Master Bob Bokram, who occasionally ferries visitors from the airport to the Harbor Springs pier, Michigan has 3,288 miles of coastline and more than 950,000 registered boats, the second most in the U.S., behind California. Harbor Springs is not only the deepest harbor in the Great Lakes, it's also among the busiest of the 90 municipal harbors in Michigan. That said, Bokram, who owned a Cessna 140 and Bonanza, looks out at the shiny yachts lining the pier and says wistfully in a whisper, "I'd rather be flying than boating." Close to 100 sailboats will race on Little Traverse Bay for the annual Regatta, July 30-31, (231) 526-7919.

About the only way to get out on Little Traverse Bay, unless you know someone with a boat, is to launch a kayak. A perfect two-hour trip begins at the public launching area in Ford Park and follows the shoreline, past the Harbor Springs marina to Harbor Point, the privately owned peninsula lined

with many elaborate old summer cottages. The harbor is protected and generally calm, so you'll have an easy return paddle across the bay, back to Ford Park. You can rent kayaks, life jackets, and back rests, and take kayak tours through The Outfitters, \$24-\$36 for two hours, \$12-\$18 for each additional hour. Two hours of instruction is an additional \$80, 153 E. Main St., (231) 526-2621 or (866) 476-8834, www.outfitterharborsprings.com.

Only one mile from the Harbor Springs Airport, Little Traverse Bay Golf Club provides spectacular views of the harbor and four lakes, from various fairways. On a clear day, you'll tee off with a 35-mile view of the bay, but don't get too distracted because the course is filled with challenges such as hole 9's narrow, uphill fairway, lined with trees. Besides a demanding and scenic course, it boasts an exceptional clubhouse restaurant, open for lunch and dinner, May-Oct, (231) 526-7800, 18 holes with cart, \$75-\$85, \$50 on "Terrific Tuesdays," 995 Hideaway Valley Rd., (231) 526-6200 or (888) 995-6262, www.ltbaygolf.com.

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Michigan has more public golf courses per capita than any other state, and four of them are at Boyne Highlands Resort, four miles north of the airport. Winner of *Golf Digest's* Silver Medal Award six years in a row, the resort's courses will provide plenty of variety. The Hills is a challenging 7,312-yard course with larger-than-life bunkers and numerous water holes; The Heather winds through forest and blueberry bog and was named one of the top-100 by *Golf* magazine; The Moor will challenge you with its doglegs, marshes, and water-holes; and The Donald Ross Memorial was designed by the extremely detailed-oriented Scotsman Donald Ross, \$49-\$134, 600 Highlands Dr., (231) 526-3000 or (800) GO-BOYNE, www.boyne.com/golf.html.

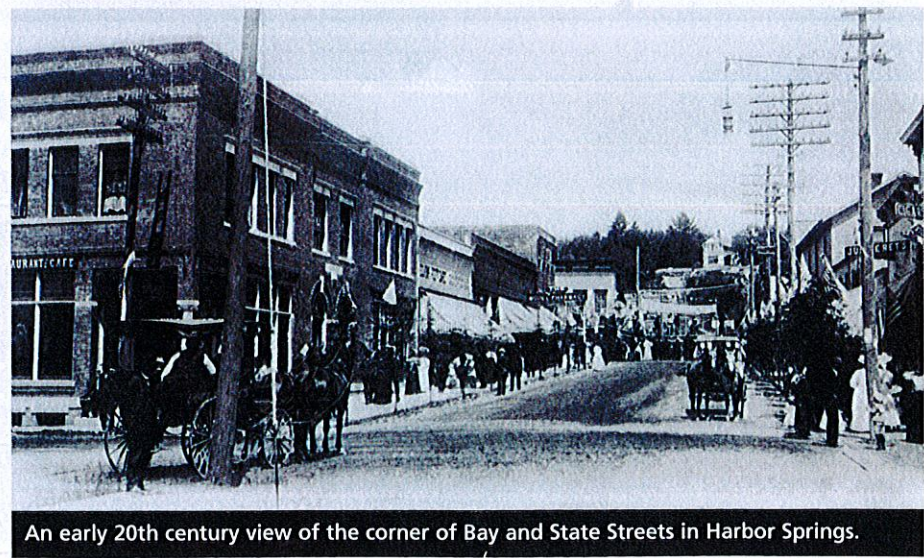
The North Country Trail (NCT) runs more than 4,000 miles through seven northern states from New York to North Dakota. You can enjoy the diversity of the Michigan landscape, from forests and wetlands to sand dunes and beaches, while **hiking** the 38-mile section of the NCT that runs from Bay View (four miles south of Harbor Springs) to Mackinaw City (near the Mackinac Bridge). The dirt trail has eleven segments, passing by forests of northern white cedar, aspen, and pine, through grassy openings, and around marshlands. The first trailhead, which will lead you through red pine and beech-maple forests, begins in Spring Lake Park, a half-mile west of North Conway Road and a half-mile north of Hathaway Road on Kipp Road. A trail brochure can be ordered by phone or e-mail from the NCT headquarters or picked up at the Harbor Springs Chamber of Commerce office, (231) 526-7999 or (866) HIKE-NCT, www.northcountrytrail.org.

Bicycling is a great way to view Lake Michigan and the Northern Michigan countryside. An easy seven-mile ride from Harbor Springs south to Petoskey on the paved Little Traverse Wheelway follows Lake Michigan's shoreline. It winds along the northeast edge of the airport and passes

by the township park for a view of Little Traverse Bay. The trail continues another 20 miles south to Charlevoix, if you're just getting warmed up. Access the trailhead at M-119 and West Conway Road in Little Traverse Township Park. You can also ride a 64-mile loop from Harbor Springs to Sturgeon Bay, returning along Lake Shore Drive on Lake Michigan's shore, www.trails council.org/inside/little-travers-wheelway_27. Touring Gear Bicycles rents bikes for \$25 per day, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon-Sat, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun, 103 E. 3rd St., (231) 526-7152. The Harbor Springs Cycling Club has Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evening rides, open to the public, from ten to 40 miles roundtrip throughout the summer, (231) 526-7152, www.harborspringscyclingclub.org.

Sandy soil and lake-effect weather make for great **berry picking** at family-owned Pond Hill Farms, five miles north of Harbor Springs. Jim, Sharon, and Jimmy Spencer grow fruits, vegetables, and herbs, all available at the farm. We picked baskets of delicious raspberries and ate half as many as we took home. The Spencers sell home-canned cherries, beans, tomatoes, blueberries, and corn relish, as well as organic beef and lamb, free-range chicken, cheeses, organic coffees, and fresh flowers at their farm. Kids can pet animals like piglets, new lambs, and baby calves. We bought lunch goodies and picnicked under the hanging flower baskets on the lawn, 7 a.m.-6 p.m., 5581 S. Lake Shore Dr., (231) 526-FARM, www.pondhill.com.

The **Harbor Springs Chamber of Commerce** has more information on events and activities, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon-Fri, 368 E. Main St., or at the waterfront gazebo open Memorial Day-Labor Day, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., (231) 526-7999, www.harborspringschamber.com. The **Petoskey-Harbor Springs-Boyne Country Visitors Bureau** is also very helpful, (231) 348-2755 or (800) 845-2828, www.boynecountry.com.



An early 20th century view of the corner of Bay and State Streets in Harbor Springs.

Courtesy Harbor Springs Area Historical Society Collection



Above and right: The Veranda at Harbor Springs is a restored Victorian house.

Where to Stay

The family-owned and operated **Best Western of Harbor Springs** is within walking distance of the airport and four miles from town center. It has 50 rooms, with two queen-size beds or a king bed; four two-room suites have fireplaces and kitchens. A fitness room, laundry facility, indoor pool, and high-speed Internet are available, as well as complimentary continental breakfast. Nutmeg's Deli and Mighty Good Pizza are nearby for a quick bite, rooms \$109-\$200, 8514 M-119, (231) 347-9050, www.bestwestern.com.

Closer to town, the **Veranda at Harbor Springs** is within a few blocks of downtown and the harbor. Once a home and a boarding house, it was built more than a century ago in Petoskey, another lakeshore town on Little Traverse Bay. One winter, a team of horses pulled the two-story house ten miles across the ice to its present location in Harbor Springs. The yellow-and-white Victorian has since been beautifully restored and furnished with antiques and original art. Seven guestrooms are uniquely decorated, with names such as the Harbor Suite, Library, Garden View, and Captain's Quarters. All have private baths; the upstairs rooms have balconies. Guests enjoy a full breakfast such as eggs Benedict or French toast, made with cherry pecan bread and stuffed with fresh strawberry cream cheese, as well as complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres in the late afternoon. Closed some off-season months, \$175-\$350, 403 E. Main St., (231) 526-0202, www.harborspringsveranda.com.

Another historical hotel within walking distance of downtown is the **Colonial Inn**, built in 1894 by a Civil War veteran named Colonel Eaton. Owner Tim Brown, who flies a Baron, first came to the Inn when his father purchased the property in 1968. A few of the 40 rooms are in the white clapboard building that is reminiscent of an old Southern colonial hotel; most are in adjoining buildings. The simply decorated rooms have private baths and TVs; some have fireplaces. Continental breakfast with homemade pastries is served in the dining room. Guests will enjoy the landscaped outdoor pool. The Inn is open Memorial Day-mid-Oct, \$139-\$199, 210 Artesian Ave., (231) 526-2111, www.harborsprings.com.



Photo courtesy Veranda at Harbor Springs

For a special experience, stay at the **Kimberly Country Estate**, where the house and grounds are lush and luxurious. Two miles north of Harbor Springs, Ronn and Billie Kimberly's pillared, plantation-style home has six elegant rooms with fine antiques and art, some with a sitting area and fireplace. Relax by the pool or on the patio among exquisite, terraced flower gardens. Amenities include a full breakfast, which you can enjoy on the patio on a clear summer morning, and late afternoon wine and hors d'oeuvres. The estate borders the Wequetonsing Golf Course and is ideal for a romantic escape, \$155-\$275, 2287 Bester Rd., (231) 526-9502 or (231) 526-7646, www.kimberlycountryestate.com.

Where to Eat

Our first food stop in Harbor Springs was **Turkey's**, popular with locals and known for its tasty pizza. The restaurant's black-and-white linoleum floor; wooden booths; historical photos; and shelves with antique cameras, old soda pop bottles, food cans, and boxes take you back to the 1950s. Owner Jeff Graham was born and raised in Harbor Springs, and he

Berry picking at family-owned Pond Hill Farms is fun for all ages.

earned the nickname "Turkey" when he began walking like one after spraining both ankles in the middle of the 1966 high school football season. Turkey's is in one of town's oldest buildings and was at various times a print shop for the local newspaper, a woolen goods shop, an ice cream store, and a bakery. For lunch, Jeff suggests you try the Italian Zapper, ham, pepperoni, hot peppers, melted cheese, and other fixings on a homemade bun, served with fries, \$7. Pizzas are served from 4:45 p.m.; try the Southwestern Pizza with picante sauce, charred chicken, onions, and melted cheddar, \$6-\$14, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. & 5-10 p.m., 250 E. Main St., (231) 526-6041.

The **New York Restaurant** could be in the Big Apple. A brick building with lots of windows, wood, and brass, it was built in 1904 as a hotel by the Leahy brothers from New York. It had a large lobby with a bar on one side and a bowling alley on the other. In 1977, the bottom floor was converted into The New York Restaurant. Owned and operated by Kim and chef Matt Bugera, the dishes, prepared with fresh local ingredients, are a treat to see and eat. The Rack of Lamb, roasted with garlic and rosemary and served with garlic mashed potatoes and spinach is superb, as is the restaurant's signature dish of Crab-stuffed Chicken Breast, entrées \$18-\$24, open at 5 p.m., Bay Street & State Street, (231) 526-1904, www.thenewyork.com.

On the harbor overlooking the marina, **Stafford's Pier Restaurant** is a landmark, as well as a place for lunch and dinner. Sit dockside on Dudley's Deck where you can feast your eyes on *The Pointer*, a restored wooden boat that ferried residents between Harbor Springs and Harbor Point from 1930 to 1962. Inside, you can dine in the nautical-themed Pointer Room, which was once the boathouse, or in the more casual Chart Room. A house specialty is Fresh Lake Superior Whitefish baked on a seasoned oak plank with remoulade sauce and lemon, accompanied by parmesan-whipped potatoes, \$21. For lunch, try the Smoked Duo Deluxe with layers of smoked salmon and local smoked whitefish salad, lettuce, red onions, tomatoes, and caper cream cheese on swirly rye, \$10, 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m., 102 Bay St., (231) 526-6201, www.staffords.com.



Photo from Lippert

Juilleret's, a family-owned and operated restaurant for four generations, first opened in 1895. Originally a boat livery and ice cream shop, Juilleret's is still a classic soda fountain that makes its own ice cream as well as a family restaurant. The house specialty is a Planked Lake Michigan Whitefish, broiled on a wooden plank edged with tomatoes, lemons, and mashed potatoes, including soup and salad bar, \$15. The lunch menu has sandwiches, salads, omelettes, and burgers, \$3.50-\$8. Juilleret's Fountain is famous for the "Thundercloud," a parfait of homemade vanilla ice cream, bittersweet chocolate,



Above: Flying past Victorian homes on the coastline. Left: View of Harbor Springs and Little Traverse Bay from East Bluff Drive.



has been tempting locals and visitors for 20 years with home-baked cookies made with hand-cut chunks of chocolate, nuts, and locally grown dried cherries, \$1.50 per 3-ounce cookie, \$15 per dozen, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon-Sat, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sun, 267 S. Spring St., (231) 526-6606, www.tomsmomscookies.com.

Transportation

There is no public transportation to Harbor Springs, four miles west of the airport, but two **courtesy cars** are available on a first-come, first-served basis. If you opt for a **taxi**, Top of the Hill Taxi charges approximately \$10 to Harbor Springs for up to six people and bags, daily except

after 5 p.m. on Sun, (231) 330-0575 or (231) 548-5859.

Avis Car Rental will deliver your **rental car** to the airport; a mid-range car is approximately \$68 per day, (231) 539-8302 or (800) 230-4898, www.avis.com. Enterprise Rent-A-Car will provide transportation to their office, \$44-\$94, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-noon Sat, (231) 439-9272, www.enterprise.com.

As I looked across blue-green, sparkling Lake Michigan—water as far as I could see—I knew I had found a different Michigan than I knew as a child. Harbor Springs is a friendly and enticing introduction to all that Northern Michigan has to offer: lakes great and small, lush forests and sandy beaches, wetlands and farmland, historical landmarks and quaint towns. It is a mittened handshake that we plan to accept again and again. ■

marshmallow cream, and crushed walnuts, \$4, 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Wed-Mon, 130 State St., (231) 526-2821.

For a summer treat, choose from 50 flavors at **Yummies** old-fashioned ice cream shop and enjoy your cone at their outdoor tables. Kids and dogs get special treatment, 50¢-\$5, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., 220 E. Main St., (231) 526-3403. **Tom's Mom's Cookies**

	<p>MGN Harbor Springs Airport Harbor Springs, MI • N 45° 25.5' W 84° 54.8' • Elevation: 686 ft.</p>	<p>Sectional Chart: Green Bay Pattern Altitude: 1,700 ft.</p>
	<p>Not to be used for navigation.</p> <p>© Flight Guide (800) FLY-FLY1 www.flightguide.com</p>	<p>FREQUENCIES</p> <p>CTAF: 122.8 MSP ARTCC: 134.6 Lansing FSS: 122.3 AWOS: 119.925</p>
<p>NOTES: Calm wind Rwy 28. Watch for deer and birds. For noise abatement, avoid area south of Rwy 28 final approach and area west and southwest of Rwy 10 final approach. On departure from Rwy 28, turn left over bay and reduce power ASAP.</p> <p>RUNWAYS: 10/28 4,157 x 75 ft. Asphalt. Lighted. 4-light PAPI Rwy 10/28. Activate MIRL Rwy 10/28 CTAF 122.8 MHz.</p> <p>SERVICES: Harbor Springs Airport. Landing fees: \$5. Tiedowns: \$5-\$8. Hangars: \$25 and up. Rental cars, courtesy car, pilot lounge, pilot supplies, flight planning, computerized weather. Fuel: 100LL \$3.70, Jet A \$3.50. Open 8 a.m.-dusk. (231) 347-2812.</p> <p>PHONES: Airport office (231) 347-2812. AWOS (231) 347-5231.</p>		

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