



*Today visitors enjoy the serene atmosphere of an outdoor memorial overlooking the Straits of Mackinac.*

The Father Jacques Marquette National Memorial was developed by the State of Michigan with financial assistance from the United States Department of the Interior.

The Marquette Unit of Straits State Park is open spring through fall 8 am to 10 pm. The Museum operates daily late spring through early fall. For detailed information and exact museum hours call 906-643-8620 or write either Straits State Park, St. Ignace, Michigan 49781 or the Michigan Department of State, Michigan Historical Museum, 528 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing, MI 48918.

Admittance to the Marquette Unit of Straits State Park is by State Park Motor Vehicle Permit. There is *no* additional entrance fee for the Museum.



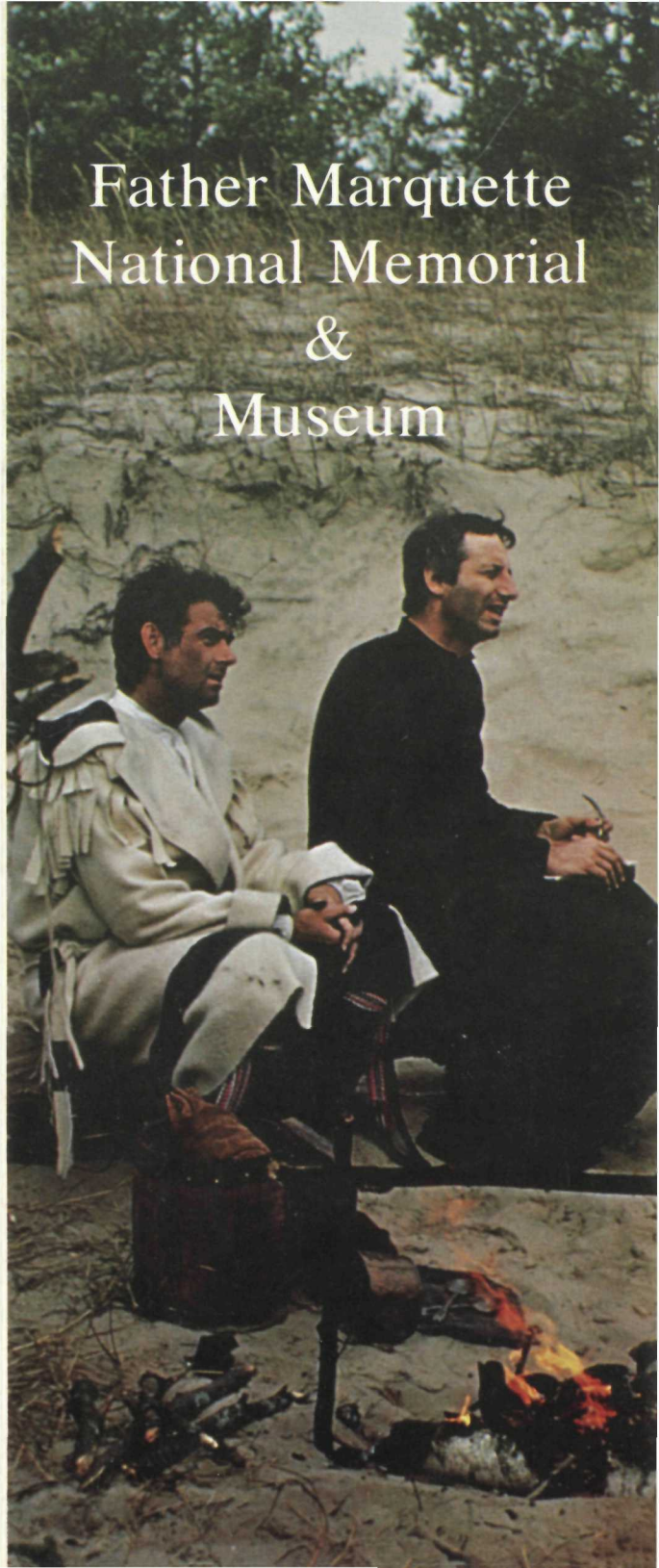
**The Father Jacques Marquette National Memorial and Museum is a Secretary of State human history project administered in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.**

Richard H. Austin, Secretary of State

All photos State Archives



# Father Marquette National Memorial & Museum



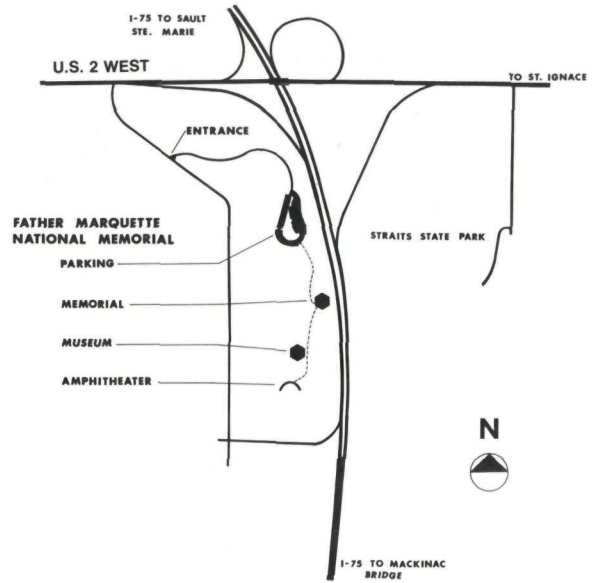
The Father Jacques Marquette National Memorial and Museum presents the life story of the legendary French Jesuit explorer and missionary whose life and work here contributed greatly to the settlement of Canada and the United States.

Jacques Marquette, born in Laon, France, arrived in Quebec in September 1666. Newly ordained a priest, he was anxious to begin missionary work among the Indian people. In a short period of nine years he traveled thousands of miles through the heart of North America and made a record of achievement admired today. In brief, Marquette:

- Founded Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, when he established the permanent mission of Sainte Marie in 1668.
- Founded St. Ignace, Michigan, when he accompanied a migrating group of Huron and Ottawa Indians there in 1671 and established the mission of St. Ignatius.
- Discovered and mapped the Mississippi River in an awesome canoe journey that began in St. Ignace on May 17, 1673, and concluded at the Mission of St. Francis at present-day Green Bay on September 30 of that same year.
- Founded the mission of the Conception at the Illinois Indian village of Kaskaskia in April 1675.
- Died of disease at the age of 37 on the Lake Michigan shore of Michigan's Lower Peninsula on May 18, 1675.

The Museum, opened in 1980, presents the story of Jacques Marquette and the French and Indian peoples of the seventeenth century. It features:

- Cases of modern interpretive exhibits highlighted by artifacts and reproductions that help explain a time long past.
- A 16-minute film, "The Mind of the Man" in which modern actors interpret Jacques Marquette at a critical time in his life and work.
- A copy of the explorer's Journal in both the original French and in English translation.
- The open air memorial, a simple wood and stone structure, providing an opportunity for relaxation and quiet contemplation, and perhaps a reflection on the three hundred



years of history since Jacques Marquette paddled the Straits of Mackinac.

What brought this well-educated son of a prosperous French merchant to the unknown heart of North America? Why did he choose to live the simple and harsh life of a Christian missionary?

What led him to undertake the great voyage of discovery down the Mississippi River?



What did the seventeenth-century French expect to find in North America?

These important and exciting questions can be explored today at the Father Jacques Marquette National Memorial. Looking south over the Straits of Mackinac with a spectacular view of the Mackinac Bridge, the Marquette Unit of Straits State Park contains both an open air memorial to Marquette and a modern Museum.