The Empire of a Multi-millionaire Banker, This Huge Holding Has the Potential To Become the Midwest's Finest Recreation Complex As well as a Profitable Timber Investment

Fourteen miles north of the Upper Peninsula city of Marquette lies the unique property called *Granot Loma,* the realized dream of Louis Graveraet Kauffman, the father of branch banking and one of the architects of the General Motors Corporation. Mr. Kauffman, who was born and began his career in Marquette, chose this site with its forested hills, rocky outcroppings and rugged shoreline with sandy beaches because he had roamed here as a child and remembered it as one of the most beautiful spots on earth. He began the complex in 1919 using a full-time construction crew of 250 men who labored until 1923 to complete the Lodge with its 35 rooms and many outbuildings. The farm complex, located on high ground about a mile away, was added later. Mr. Kauffman spent $5,000,000 on the project; to reproduce it today would cost up to $41,000,000, according to a professional appraisal, although the appraisers doubt that it could be constructed today at any price, due to the "unbelievably high level of craftsmanship and artistry and the meticulous selection of nearly perfect building materials."

Focal point of *Granot Loma* is the 35-room lodge located on a point of land that juts into Lake Superior at Garlic Island, which protects the site from the full force of winter storms. (The island is a part of the property.) Although it appears to be built of logs, it is actually of steel frame construction on an unusually solid poured concrete foundation. The steel framework is invisible, being completely covered with logs, hollowed out to contain the steel structure, and even after 60 years, there is no cracking or other deterioration in the foundation. Every single detail is an indication of the artistry and craftsmanship with which the lodge was constructed.

The main living areas of the lodge run along the lake side for about 141 feet, with a ceiling height of 24 feet to the peak of the cathedral ceilinged and beamed Great Room, with lower wings on each end which serve as a dining room and the game room/library. These rooms each contain a huge stone fireplace and many floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the lake. From this main axis are two wings, the shorter north wing containing extensive kitchen and service areas on the main floor and guest rooms and baths on the upper level. The longer south wing has bedroom suites on both floors. There is also a comparatively small southeast wing which contains the master suite on the second floor and a den and poker room below. There are 26 bedrooms and 15 baths in all; each bedroom has its own fireplace. In the basement area are marble steam rooms and storage, but most of the space in this area is used as a boat house. A breakwater or mole creates a small protected harbor in front of the lodge, and small boats can be brought directly into the basement from this area. Surrounding the main lodge are three other buildings, a guest cabin with eight rooms, four fireplaces and four baths, servants' quarters of three living rooms and 14 bedrooms and a nine-stall garage.

So well proportioned is the structure of the lodge, and so cleverly designed in scale with the immensity of the outdoors, that the observer's first glance gives not the faintest idea of the real size of the structure. Its large public areas, extensive service facilities and many bedroom suites make it ideal as a resort hotel in the rustic style, along the lines of the famed Mohonk Mountain House in New York State. There are tennis courts, excellent opportunities for boating and fishing, thousands of acres for hiking, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling.

If Garlic Mountain, 320 feet above the lake shore, were developed for downhill skiing, *Granot Loma* could become one of the premier recreation facilities in the Midwest.

The farm complex lies approximately a mile north of the lodge, sitting on high land with views of the surrounding forest. The buildings include the two-story farm manager's house with large screened porches, a large caretaker's house, a huge barn capable of housing a dairy herd, and a dozen other buildings, most of glazed brick construction. Also of the same construction is the pool house which adjoins a heated and filtered swimming pool. Surrounding the farm complex are over 200 acres of cleared field for hay and grain crops, an orchard and a vegetable garden. 2,500 acres of the total of 5,180 acres are fenced.

For the person who appreciates Nature at her untouched best, *Granot Loma* has no equal. In the thousands of acres of forest are deer, bear, fox and much small game. Among the varieties of birds which flourish here are waterfowl, upland game birds and songsters. The property includes a mile of frontage on the Little Garlic River, which is considered to have the finest rainbow trout fishing in the state. Frontage along Lake Superior extends for 3.64 miles with 1.1 miles of sand beach. In the lake for the taking are lake trout, steelhead, rainbow, whitefish, coasters, and salmon. 80% of the property is forested; it is estimated to contain between 2 and 3 million board feet of lumber, including mature stands of maple, poplar, pine, hemlock, white birch, yellow birch, cedar, balsam, and spruce.

Marquette, 14 miles south, a city of about 26,000 population, is the home of Northern Michigan University, officially designated as the nation's third Olympic Training site. Marquette Mountain Ski area has the longest run in the central United States and the airport has scheduled air service to major Midwest cities.

Granot Loma has tremendous appeal for the nature lover, hunter, fisherman, or if the farm complex were converted to a training facility, it could be an excellent adjunct to the Olympic site at NMU. It also has potential for corporate use. Its investment value as a land bank and a source of lumber are additional bonuses. For the developer with imagination and skill, it is a gold mine.