

'Spreading the word'

Ren-Cen gets boost in official guide

By TIM RICHARD

Detroit's skyline and the state's ethnic festivals will be featured in the new Official Transportation Map which the state will begin distributing free in mid-January.

Three million copies of the 1978-9 map have been printed. The maps were unveiled with great ceremony last week by the State Highway Commission and officials of the Detroit Plaza Hotel.

In a significant departure from past practice, the commission dropped a box with the state's vital statistics (population, area, date admission to the Union, etc.) and replaced it with a plug for "the stunning new" Renaissance Center and "a 73-story hotel."

CHAIRMAN Peter B. Fletcher said the map "will help to spread the word that Detroit is a vital and interesting city—the heart of one of the nation's great metropolitan areas."

The map, known since 1975 as a transportation map rather than a "highway map," also:

- Designates state park and recreation area campgrounds but not national forest campgrounds. (Conversely, the National Forest Service maps list only federal facilities and not state facilities. Campers will again need two maps.) This practice will be

considered for 1980-1, when the map will be enlarged.

- Shows, in its metro area close-up, such four-year public colleges as the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, Wayne State University and Oakland University as well as the Jesuit-run University of Detroit—but not the state-run UM-Dearborn.

- Misspells the skyline feature as "Renaissance" Center. The word has a single-n and a double-s.

- Fails to show, on the first million copies, the Village of Barton Hills, located across the Huron River from Ann Arbor. Fletcher said this mistake was caught one-third of the way through the printing and corrected. The explanation: The type fell off a plastic overlay.

- For the first time, shows an aerial photo of the State Capitol Complex in Lansing with labels that identify state buildings and the departments housed in them.

NEVERTHELESS, state officials are proud of their effort to combine clarity, information and promotion of the state.

Tom Shawver, the public information chief, who suggested a photo of Ren-Cen for the cover, said the staff studies maps from all 50 states to get ideas on improvements.

The map contains 1,200 changes and additions from the 1976-7 version, most notably the new I-275 and I-96 freeways.

As a transportation map, it shows not only freeways and roads but airports, Amtrak rail passenger lines and depots, intercity bus terminals, domestic and international seaports, and passenger and auto ferry routes.

The promotional section of the map, located below the city maps on the back side, contains 14 color photos of ethnic festivals—eight from Detroit and six from outstate, including the Frankenmuth Bavariafest, Holland's TulipTime, Greenville's Danish Festival, Alma's Highland games, Hancock's Finn Fest and Gaylord's Alpenfest.

THE PHOTO of Gov. William G. Milliken is larger this year. In the 1976-77 map, his picture was 2 by 2 1/4 inches. The new map has a 3 by 3 1/2 inch photo of the governor and his wife Helen.

The 1973 and 1975 maps had cover photos of unidentified highway scenes. With the 1976-77 map, however, the map took on an historical theme—Fort Mackinac on the cover and Greenfield Village on the metro side.

Cost of printing is a bit more than \$250,000, or 8.4 cents per copy. Low

bidding was Michigan Lithographing Co. of Grand Rapids.

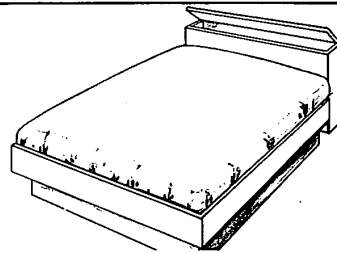
The map may not be sold. Starting the second week in January, it may be obtained at the department's district offices (the closest is in Southfield), state travel information centers, district DNR offices, chambers of commerce, many local government offices and regional tourist associations (there's one in the State Plaza Building in Detroit).

Or you can send a post card (no sealed envelopes) with your name, address and zip code to: "Maps, Dept. of State Highways and Transportation; Box 30600; Lansing, MI. 48909."

Realtors pick veep

Jared W. Benedict has been appointed by the board of directors of the Western Wayne Oakland County Board of Realtors to head its 25-member staff as executive vice president.

Benedict, 47, previously held the same post with the Greater Dallas Board of Realtors. With the WWOBCB, he will be responsible for daily operations for the 3,500 member board and its multiple listing subsidiary, United Northwestern Realty Association.



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SEMCOC hails apportionment rule

Leaders of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments are elated at a Genesee Circuit Court ruling that regional planning commissions and councils of government don't have to be organized under the "one person, one vote" rule because they aren't forms of government.

Genesee Judge Thomas C. Yeotis said the principle is inapplicable "because membership is voluntary and members are appointed, not elected."

Politically, SEMCOG leaders have long wrestled with the fear of small local governments that the seven-county voluntary planning agency was Detroit-dominated. SEMCOG leaders had also fought bitterly against the so-called "Ryan bill" that would have reconstituted SEMCOG as a regional government, making it subject to the constitutional rules of apportionment.

THE CASE was filed in 1974 by Genesee Prosecutor Robert F. Leonard on behalf of Flint city officials. They complained that Genesee County (where Flint is located) had 85 per cent of that region's population but only seven of 15 votes on the tri-county planning commission.

Under SEMCOG apportionment rules, the City of Detroit has three general assembly delegate seats; Wayne County Government, five; Oakland and Macomb counties, three each (though

Macomb is not a member); the four outlying counties two each; and all other member cities, villages, townships, school districts and community college districts, one each—regardless of population.

SEMCOC entered the case as an intervening defendant. The cities of Flint and Grand Rapids entered as co-plaintiffs.

"Based upon the testimony," Judge Yeotis wrote, "this court is not persuaded that the regional planning commissions function in any manner other than in a planning-advisory capacity and are directly responsible to other forms or agencies of government."

"Regional planning commissions do not make the ultimate or final decision on programs or policies. Consequently, the electorate maintains its direct and proportional access to those persons or bodies who are entrusted with the responsibility of making such ultimate decisions."

"SEMCOC's PRIMARY function is to foster region-wide planning and cooperative efforts to resolve problems including but not limited to transportation, land use, recreation, housing, manpower development, health and welfare and public safety and criminal justice in the seven-county region."

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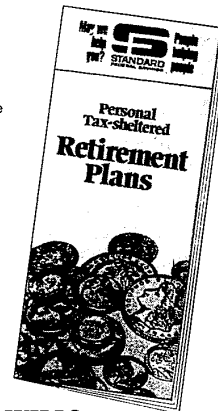
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20	30,000	43,940	73,940
25	37,500	80,531	118,031
30	45,000	137,748	182,748



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3700 West Maple, Birmingham	647-1105	14201 Greenfield near Grand River	273-4610	123 West Michigan, Ypsilanti	482-7566
825 West Long Lake, Bloomfield Hills	642-7743	10541 Joy Road near Manor	933-7664	14628 East Jefferson at Manistique	821-3085
25850 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills	477-2110	24224 Joy Road near Telegraph	538-7171	16530 East Warren near Gates Drive	884-0140
32525 West Thirteen Mile, Farmington Hills	855-1444	15841 Schaefer Road near Northville	342-1000	11511 Kelly Road at Whitlitt	371-9450
13100 Rochester Road, Rochester	652-2720	3200 Eisenhower Pkwy., Ann Arbor	973-0900	25501 Harper, St. Clair Shores	771-2200
1405 North Woodward, Royal Oak	347-5000	186 Main Street, Dearborn	881-1685	4650 Twenty-Four Mile Rd., Shelby Twp.	731-0000
29403 Greenfield, Southfield	559-7010	1801 Hubbard, Dearborn	353-3730	39009 Schoenherr Road, Sterling Heights	939-4650
2613 Southfield, Southfield	559-4720	5811 Middlebelt Road, Garden City	572-6900	3900 Fourteen Mile Road, Warren	268-3700
2401 West Big Beaver, Troy	643-3660	17230 Farmington Road, Livonia	261-7900	30700 Schoenherr, Warren	779-0800
6689 West Big Beaver, Troy	643-7400	40909 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth Twp.	459-8658	DOWNTOWN DETROIT	
940 East Long Lake Road, Troy	889-4550	2089 Rawsonville Road, Van Buren Twp.	481-0650	405 Griswold at Jefferson	965-4774

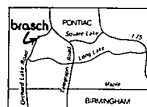
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