

# Clinton canoeists see mixed scenes

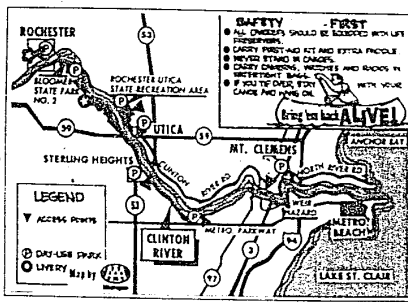
The picturesque Clinton River's 122 curving miles of navigable water through Oakland and Macomb counties offer city dwellers an excellent chance to explore wooded countryside and farmland, according to the Automobile Club of Michigan.

Canoeing on the fast-moving Clinton is getting more popular each year. Bring your own canoe and launch it from any of several parks along the river, or rent one at liveries in the Rochester-Utica or Mount Clemens areas.

No. 2 should be traveled by experts only.

The 24-mile portion from Bloomer Park to Ulica's City Park on Van Dyke is recommended for those with some canoeing experience.

For novices and family groups, the 48-mile stretch from Ulica to Mount Clemens' Shady Side Park is suggested. The river is wide and easy to navigate between Mount Clemens and Lake St. Clair, but there are many power boats on that portion, and their wakes are dangerous to canoeists.



There are no dams, but portages sometimes are required around obstructions such as fallen trees, which can be hidden around curves.

**THE CLINTON** moves through rolling terrain, farmland and several towns at a three-to-eight-mile-an-hour clip on its way to Lake St. Clair, offering canoeists challenges as well as pleasant experiences.

Aluminum canoes are recommended because the stream has shallow sections in summer and the bottom is rocky.

**TWO CANOE** liveries serve the Clinton River.

They are Carver's Canoe Rentals at Warsaw Park, off Hamlin Road between Dequindre and Ryan roads in Shelby Township, and Clinton River Canoe Livery, west of Mount Clemens City Park.

The historic Clinton-Kalamazoo Canal, built as a barge canal in 1839, parallels the Clinton River from Avon Road (23 Mile) to M-59 (Hall Road).

The Clinton River passes through the east end of Bloomer State Park No. 2, the Ulica Unit of the Rochester-Utica State Recreation Area, Sterling Heights City Park and Shady Side and City parks in Mount Clemens. There are launch points, day-use facilities and toilets at those parks.

The river also passes through several towns — Rochester, Ulica, Sterling Heights and Mount Clemens — offering visual variety. There is fair trout and bass fishing along the way.

There are steep banks along the river through the Ulica unit of the Rochester-Utica State Recreation Area, making landing difficult. The take-out point at that park is just below a footbridge over the river.

Downstream from the point where the Edison power lines cross the river, just east of Hayes Road, the Red Run Drain enters the Clinton from the right. Canoeists keep to the left, following the river, to proceed downstream.

A MINIMUM of 16 hours is required to canoe the river's length. Frequent launch points are available for shorter trips, and you can canoe from a few hours to a day.

Experts say the 50-mile western segment from 1-75 to Bloomer State Park

Banks are steep as the river approaches Shady Side Park in Mount Clemens. The left bank opposite the spillway is best for take-outs. Do not enter the spillway, where there is a submerged weir to control water levels.

## Few kids use car seatbelts; researcher blames parents

Injuries in auto crashes are the leading cause of death of children over age 1, according to a University of Michigan researcher.

In studies at U-M's Highway Safety Research Institute (HSRI), fewer than one in 20 children in automobile crashes were found to be restrained by a seat belt or a child restraint seat.

"It is tragic," said U-M researcher John Melvin, "that otherwise sophisticated parents fail to protect their children in automobiles by making certain they wear a seat belt."

"If a small child is old enough to sit up, he should at least be secured by the seat belt the car comes equipped with or by a child restraint seat. If the child is too young to sit up, the parent should secure him in an infant restraint seat anchored to the vehicle's seat."

Melvin said his studies of child restraint devices and their use show that while excellent systems are commercially available at modest prices, few parents buy and use them.

"Some who use them do not install them properly in their cars," he said, "and this can severely decrease their protective qualities."

A recent HSRI study of 314 crashes involving 494 children aged 5 or under revealed that less than 5 percent were restrained by a seat belt or child restraint seat.

Without a restraint, Melvin said children "are subject to a crash to colliding violently with the interior of the car."

Melvin notes that the present federal safety standard relating to child restraints is expected to be revised to 1985.

The revision will likely improve the crashworthiness of new child restraints offered for sale, but will likely do little to raise the low rate of use of child restraints," he said.

## Judge addresses UM grads

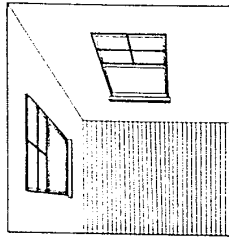
Stanley M. Hufschler, circuit judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit in Los Angeles, will be the main speaker at The University of Michigan's spring commencement Saturday.

Judge Hufschler and Herbert Friedman, physician, and Alicia de Llorca, pianist, will receive honorary degrees at the ceremony.

Commencement exercises will begin at 10:30 a.m. in Crater Arena. Some 5,800 U-M students on the Ann Arbor campus expect their degrees this spring.

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