## Mid-Michigan cities offer quiet respite, tranquility

theincochomecomm.not

ve always heard about the
pride that the folks of Marshall have for their historic
homes, but it was never more
evident than when I took a
wrong fork in the road and had
to stop at a drive-in eatery to ask
for directions to the butcl.

Oh, that's on the other side of
con, where all the junk is. You
know, the Burger King and video
stores, said the man behind the
counter.

Well, he's right. The west side of Michigan Avenue, Marshall's main drag, is strip mall heaven. But the east side of the strip is a maint little downtown with quaint little downtown with shops that sell knick-knacks and

Antiques.

And historic homes abound.
Some are still single family residences, but several have been turned into museums.

## Island flavor

The Honolulu House is probably the most famous. Built in 1860 by a state senator who was enamored by the Hawaiian Islands, the lavishly decorated house features tropical murals,

If you go...

Marshall

Marshall

The Marshall Scarecrow
Festival is Oct. 1-0ct. 31.
Events include an ox roast
and children's games Oct. 20, a
costume parada Oct. 27 and
an antiques market Oct. 28.
For further information call
1800-877-5163 or visit
www.scarecrowfestival.com
Honolulu House Museum
Open noon to 6 p.m. until
Oct. 31., 107 N. Kalamazoo,
Marshall, (616)781-8644

Battle Oreek

Marshall, (616)781-8644
Battle Creek

Kellogg's Cerenl City
USA, 171 W. Michigan, Batale Creek, (616)962-6230
Beadle Lake Road
south of 1-94 (Exit 100)
Open 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mondny-Fridny, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday and 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday,
For information call
(616)979-1351.

odd pagoda-shaped observation deck."

There's also a Governor's Mansion, despite the fact that Marsion despite the fact that Marsion despite of the fact that Marsion

mon toust to be presented good.

Be sure and see the Brooks Memorial Fountain at night.
Last year, the historic 1930 white pillared Gountain underwent an \$80,000 restoration paid by the City of Marshall. Jets of water project through the Greek Doric design and are lit up in numerous colors at night.

If you enjoy traipsing in and

numerous colors at night.
If you enjoy traipsing in and
out of little shops, then Marshall
is your place. But an afternoon
of that and I was ready to strike
out a little further so I hit the
big city—which, in this case, was
Battle Creek.

## It's Grrrreat

It's Grrrreat

We depress the driven to Chicago, I've always been strangely drawn to the road sign that advertises the Battle Creek attraction "Kellogg's Cereal City USA." It reminds me of childhood road trips out west when we'd see signs inviting us to view "dinessur parks" and "death cars of the stars."

What could possibly fill a whole museum devoted to cereal?

Woll, forgive me for heing a

al?
Well, forgive me for being a
Doubting Thomas because this
place is a lot of fun for kids and
adults. There's a huge playtime
area that kids can run, jump and
fall in without getting hurt. The entrance is a huge milk carton, and soft-sculpture Fruit Loops abound.

Kids will also enjoy all the



Wookend fun: Kellogg's Cereal City USA (above) shows the history of America's favorite morning food. Binder Park Zoo (right) has a savannah large enough for giraffes to gallop, though many prefer to stick close to the

train artifacts as Gereal City also serves as a historical museum showing Battle Creek at the turn of the 19th century.

A self-guided tour takes you through a makeshift control room and production line for making Corn Flakes, and at the end, you get a free sample. Four theaters show productions ranging from a historical account of the brothers Kellogg and C.W. Post to old commercials starring everyone from Rin Tin Tin to the Partridge Family.

You can purchase a box of Corn Flakes with your picture on it, and, of course, there's a gift shop with every conceivable product with Tony the Tiger, Toucan Sam and Snop, Crackle, Pop on it.

Besides Cereal City, the place

you don't want to miss is Binder Park Zeo, just on the outskirts of downtown Battle Creek.
Having the Detroit Zeo just minutes away, I wasn't really expecting much from a zeo in he middle of Michigan. But'I was quite taken aback. At this zeo, the zebras and giraffes reamfree in a savannah large enough to allow them to work up a gallop. Along the trail in Wild Africa (it's accessible only by the zebra tram), there are stops where you can feed the giraffes—which is sure to elicit squeals from young-sters. The one-mile trail through Wild Africa is accessible for strollers, and there are stops along the way to get the best views of estriches, antelope and gazelles.

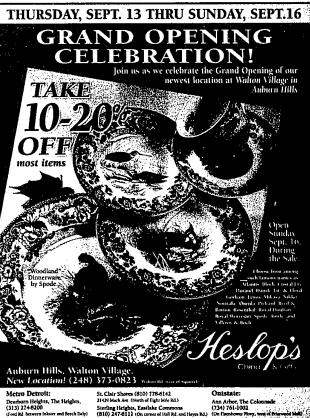
During the winter months, the animals can come and go or simply stay in a barn the size of a football field that is beyond visitors' sight as you look across the hills.

The zoo also features a snow leopard, red pandas, camales and prairie dogs. Throughout most of the zoo; patrons walk above the animals on boardwalks, giving the feel that it's the animals that room free and the visitors are confined to the smaller spaces.

The zoo also features a children's zoo and a railroad ride that take you through some heavily wooded areas.

The Binder Park Zoo offers a reciprocal agreement with the Detroit Zoo, so you get in free if you're a member. And besides being a wonderful habitat for animals, the zoo is a pleasant place to while away a fall afternoon.





Dearhorn Heights, The Heights, (313) 274-8200 (Ford Rd. between 1-4 eren Inkster and Beech Daly) Livonia, Merti-Five Plaza (734) 522-1850 (On corner of Five Mile and Me

Novi, Novi Town Center (248) 349-8090

Sterling Heights, Eastlake Commons (810) 247-8111 (On corner of Hall Rd. and Hayes Rd.) Troy, Oakland Mall (248) 589-1433

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