

# I-96 Still 3 Years From Completion

By STEVE BARNABY

It will be another two and a half to three years before highway construction is completed and the M-14/I-96 Jeffries freeway will be open to traffic, according to Michigan State Highway officials. Also known as the Schockcraft expressway, the six-lane highway begins in Detroit's east side and terminates north of Ann Arbor. Its suburban route takes it down Schockcraft Rd. through Redford Township, Livonia and Plymouth Township.

"This expressway will be able to handle traffic adequately for at least the next 25 years," says Ed Boucher,

of the Michigan Highway public information office. "A six-lane highway of this type should be able to handle 150,000 cars in a 24 hour period."

Presently, the eight mile section between Telegraph and Haggerty Rd. handles between 30,000 and 40,000 automobiles in a 24 hour period. The amount of traffic decreases to about 8,000 west of Plymouth, according to Southeast Michigan Council of Governments statistics.

Planning for the 43-mile freeway was begun in the '50s and the six mile section running north of Ann Arbor was completed by 1965. Actual construction of the

travel surface will begin in the Redford - Livonia area in mid-November. One of the first sections in the link to be completed will be that running between Beech Daly and Inkster, costing more than \$3 million in construction cost.

Cost for the entire project is financed 90 per cent by the federal government and 10 per cent by the state. The final estimate of completed cost is undetermined because of the rising cost of labor and materials since the project began.

Construction costs may vary mile by mile depending on the number of overpasses needed and the money paid

for right-of-way; that is, money paid for acquisition land, according to Boucher.

For the 12 mile section between Ann Arbor and Plymouth Township, more than \$5 million was spent on acquisition for 193 parcels of land.

Road construction costs are estimated to be more than \$17 million for the same section, with costs for overpasses and interchanges being about \$7 million.

"Aside from right-of-way costs and environmental considerations, road construction costs have risen 42 per cent and bridge costs 74 per cent in the 1950-69 period," says Boucher. "I imagine they have risen another 20 to 30 per cent since that time."

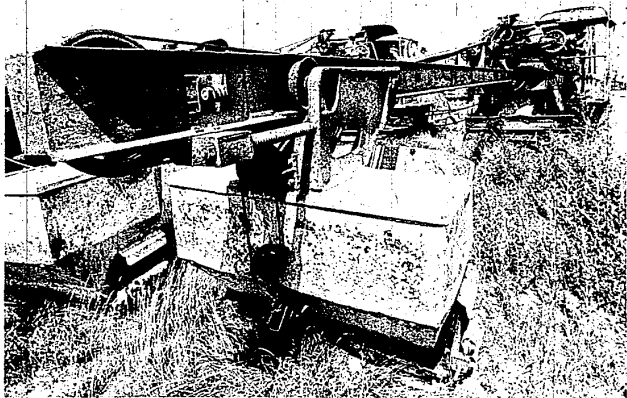
Construction costs of a mile long section vary between \$3 million and \$10 million.

Completion of a mile section, according to highway officials, takes the coordination of five contracting companies, with anywhere from three to 40 men working for each contractor. Those using the most manpower are the sewer and excavation companies.

Other contractors are paving, sodding and electrical.

"To minimize noise, the entire freeway through Livonia is to be recessed," says Ken McLenon, Wayne County district office engineer.

The freeway will be recessed until reaching the interchange at I-275 and Haggerty Rd.



THE MACHINE with the long beam is a grade mixer and is designed to spread concrete. The dual drums mounted on the beam are operated by the cable. The machine is fed

by "batch trucks" which bring dry mix to the construction site. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)



MARY MANGNUSON, a civil engineer, mans the "gun" for "shooting the line" to workmen on an overpass. Without her instructions, nothing could be built with accuracy. (Observer photo)

## Tahquamenon Falls: Most Popular Spot In The UP

A spectacular waterfall, largest in the Midwest, more than 19,000 acres of forest, streams and lakes - all are at Tahquamenon Falls State Park. No other state park offers the camper as much natural beauty, according to Automobile Club of Michigan.

The park, most popular in the upper peninsula, is 20 miles northeast of Newberry on M-123. Last year it attracted 500,490 campers, top

attendance at the UP's 16 state parks.

The park has three campgrounds. The Lower Tahquamenon Falls has 183 sites with modern facilities, electricity and a park concession. Two other campgrounds are near the mouth of the Tahquamenon River, five miles south of Paradise. One has 76 sites and modern facilities, the other 60 sites and primitive facilities.

The Lower Tahquamenon

Falls campground has no swimming, but there is good swimming at the two Rivermouth campgrounds and also a boat ramp.

Adjacent to the Lower Falls are picnic grounds, ample parking, a store and boat launch. There also is a trailer sanitation disposal station.

There is fishing for trout, pike, walleyes, muskie and perch in the Tahquamenon River.

A four-mile hiking trail runs along the river between the falls.

The Upper and Lower Tahquamenon Falls are one of Michigan's top tourist attractions. Next to Niagara, the Upper Falls is the largest east of the Mississippi River, with a sheer drop of 40 feet and a width of some 200 feet at the shelving sandstone crest.

The decaying vegetation of the vast Tahquamenon swamp gives the water a golden cast. In Indian language, Tahquamenon means "black waters."

The Lower Falls, about four miles downstream, is divided by an island and is a series of rapids and cascades which lower the river 43 feet into a quiet pool below. Rowboats are available for rent to visit the island where the series of falls are best visible.

The Upper Falls can be reached by two combination boat-train trips through the wilderness.

One combination trip is called the Tom Sawyer Riverboat and "Paul Bunyan Timber Train." It starts from Slater's Landing, 10 miles north of Hubert off M-28, by riverboat and continues through the wilderness to the Falls, by open air cars pulled by a huge tractor.

From July 1 through Labor Day, there are two trips daily, at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. After Labor Day one trip daily, at 10:30 a.m.

The other is the Toonerville Trolley and boat trip. Starting at Soo Junction, on M-28 east of Newberry, visitors ride a narrow gauge railroad six miles through thick forest and then board a riverboat for the remainder of the trip.

Two trips daily are scheduled weekdays during July and August, at 10 a.m. and noon. On Saturday and Sunday during July and August there is one trip, leaving at 10:30 a.m. From Sept. 1 through Oct. 5, one trip daily leaves at 10:30 a.m.

Either trip will give a side view of the Upper Falls better than from the opposite bank where motorists walk after parking.

## The 'Almost' Capital Marshall Opens Homes

MARSHALL

Historic Marshall, a rallying place for those who love 19th century homes and buildings, will greet visitors for its 10th annual historic home tour on Saturday and Sunday Sept. 8-9.

Three private homes never before open to the public and three that haven't been shown for several years are featured this year. Marshall is along I-94 about 60 miles west of Ann Arbor.

The event, sponsored by the Marshall Historical Society, also highlights Michigan's "almost" Governor's Mansion (1839), Capitol Hill School and Children's Museum (1860) and Honolulu House Museum (1860).

The nine buildings, all older than a century, include outstanding examples of Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate and Italian Villa styles. All are beautifully maintained and decorated.

Tour hours will be 9 to 5 on Saturday, and 10 to 5 on Sunday. Four tickets at \$3 are available at booths as one enters the town.

As Michigan was being organized as a state, the existing cities jockeyed for preference as the sites for various institutions - a university at Ann Arbor, a prison at Jackson, a mental institution at Kalamazoo.

In this scheme, Marshall was to become state capital. For reasons the history books fail to make clear, however, the Legislature by a one vote margin gave that honor to Lansing Township.

Adding to the atmosphere of the last century will be church luncheons, bake sales, antique sale, arts and crafts fair, a band concert, an ice cream social, a Civil War encampment, barber-shop quartet singing, and a tinsmith photographer.

Some 30 civic, religious and fraternal organizations



A SPECULATIVE "Governor's Mansion" was built in 1839 in anticipation of Marshall's becoming the state capital. Shannon Cowles will help guide visitors during the Sept. 8-9 historic homes tour.

particularly beautiful example of the Gothic Revival style, this brick structure features one of Marshall's most attractive parlors and numerous family heirlooms, antiques and portraits.

•Thick House (1869) - This Italian-Villa home was built by an early clothing merchant. At the turn of the century, it became the home of William Wallace Cook, prolific author of Buffalo Bill, Frank Merriwell, Deadeye Dick and Nick Carter dime novels, for some 33 years.

•Greer House (1871) - Mabel Greer Skjelver in her "19th Century Homes of Marshall" describes this as "a late Gothic Revival, more vertical in appearance" yet noting that the center second-floor window and the main entrance are arched in the Italianate manner. (First time).

•Michigan's first "Governor's Mansion" (1839) - This Greek Revival - style home was built by James Wright Gordon, an early Michigan lieutenant governor and governor, on speculation that Marshall would be state capital.

•Capitol Hill School (1860) - One of the last of the "little red schoolhouses" in existence, this building features a restored 19th Century Classroom and a Children's Museum. Restoration was done with proceeds of earlier tours.

•Honolulu House (1860) - "The most unusual building in Marshall, it was built by a former U.S. consul to the Sandwich (now Hawaiian) Islands. Judge Abner Pratt is said to have modeled it after his residence in Honolulu. It's the headquarters of the Marshall Historical Society and also contains a museum of 19th Century furniture and artifacts.

•Wilcox House (1840s) - An early Marshall farmhouse, restored by Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Clyde H. Wilcox. It has a collection of early New England furniture and post-revolutionary American China. (Also on tour for the first time).

•Perrett House (1860) - A

and more than 1,000 private citizens work on some element of the event.

Large free parking areas have been set aside. Free shuttle busses make continuous trips from the parking areas passing within 20 to 100 yards of all eight buildings on tour.

Houses on tour this year include:

•C.W. Brooks House (1841-42) - This Greek Revival "Cottage Temple" contains many Hepplewhite, Duncan Phyfe and Sheraton originals as well as products of early Marshall furniture makers.

•Berry House (1843) -

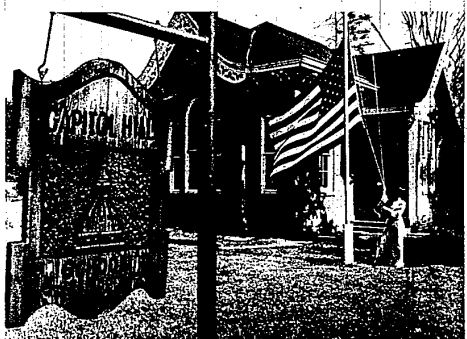
### Campsite Deal Offered Buyers

Stark Hickey West, 24760 W. Seven Mile, Redford, is one of the Ford dealers that has managed to slightly ease the pain of rising auto costs for "select customers" who buy "selected" recreation vehicles from it.

Ford Motor Co.'s latest idea is a program called "passport to fun" which offers the free use of a campsite for one year for those selected people who buy selected vehicles.


According to Joe Cappy, recreation products sales manager, free camping will be obtainable at more than 200 campgrounds nationwide, including Jellystone, Cutty's and Safari Campgrounds.

One year's free towing and road service, trip routing services, travel accident insurance, a magazine, arrest bond certificate and ball bond fees are also part of the package.



CAPITOL HILL School, in Gothic Revival style, was built in Marshall in 1860 and will open in the Sept. 8-9 tour of historic buildings.

for recreation, fun... try a  
**STATE PARK**



**TAHUQUAMENON FALLS**  
STATE PARK



**THE MIDWEST'S LARGEST AND MOST SPECTACULAR WATERFALL IS A TREAT FOR THOSE WHO CAMP IN TAHQUAMENON FALLS STATE PARK, 20 MILES NORTHEAST OF NEWBERRY ON M-123. THE PARK, MOST POPULAR IN THE UPPER PENINSULA, COVERS 19,185 ACRES OF FOREST, STREAMS AND LAKES IN TWO COUNTIES AND INCLUDES BOTH THE UPPER AND LOWER TAHQUAMENON FALLS. A CAMPGROUND AT THE LOWER FALLS HAS 183 SITES,**

**WHILE TWO RIVERMOUTH CAMPGROUNDS NEAR THE MOUTH OF THE TAHQUAMENON RIVER, FIVE MILES SOUTH OF PARADISE, HAVE 136 SITES. FISHING IS GOOD IN THE RIVER AND NEARBY LAKES. THERE ARE TWO SIGHTSEEING BOATS TO THE FALLS.**

**BE SURE TO FILL FRESH WATER TANKS FOR YOUR CAMPING VEHICLE ONLY AT GAS STATIONS AND PARKS WITH HEALTH DEPARTMENT APPROVED WATER. IT'S ALSO A GOOD IDEA TO FLUSH OUT YOUR TANKS AND LINES AT FREQUENT INTERVALS.**

**Bring 'em back ALIVE!**

JOINTLY FOR (A) BY LEE BOWERS