

Circular tour features 'Big Town' attractions

Sightseers will find more stand-out attractions in southwestern Michigan's big towns than probably anywhere else in the state.

Highlights of the 198-mile circular "Big Town Tour" can include the State Capitol in Lansing, Michigan State University and its agricultural research barns in nearby East Lansing, Marshall's gracious 19th century home, the Kellogg Company in Battle Creek, one of the state's finest nature centers at Kalamazoo and its intriguing museums and a paddletown ride in Grand Rapids.

Visitors can see the outstanding attractions in the Lansing-East Lansing area without spending a dime in admission fees. In Lansing, Michigan's 94-year-old State Capitol can be visited seven days a week except on holidays. Guided tours are available from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.

WELL OVER 100 species of animals can be viewed in Lansing's Potter Park Zoo daily. Interesting and informative exhibits can also be seen every day at the Michigan Historical Museum.

Michigan State University in nearby East Lansing offers a variety of attractions. For a look at rural life, visitors can tour MSU's agricultural research barns where farm animals are raised for experimental purposes. Barns are open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A walk on MSU's campus should include a stop at the Beal-Garfield Botanic Gardens where more than 5,000 types of flowers and shrubs grow. Visitors can also tour MSU's computer laboratory, historical museum and television studio. A 47-bell carillon concert at Beaumont Tower can be heard at 4 p.m. Sundays.

The hometown of the original Win Schaefer's Restaurant, Marshall is also noted for its 19th century architecture. Chief among Marshall's fine old homes is the Honolulu House, now a museum full of historical artifacts.

CLOSED MONDAYS. Honolulu House is open on afternoons only. Admission is 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children.

In Battle Creek, the world's cereal capital, the Kellogg Company's plant can be toured without charge from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Not to be outdone, the Post Cereals Division of the General Food

Corp. has an art gallery which can be toured for free from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays. The gallery is located at the Postum Club House.

Two other Battle Creek attractions emphasize the outdoors. The Leila Arboretum, a 265-acre tract of rare plantings, contains the Kalamazoo Memorial Museum of Natural History. Located 13 miles northwest of town, the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary features a museum devoted to bird life. Open daily, both attractions require a small admission fee.

Kalamazoo's big attraction—the Kalamazoo Nature Center—is actually located about five miles north of town. Its focal point, the interpretive Center, includes a geodesic dome housing tropical plants representing species once found in prehistoric Michigan. Nearby is a small "barnyard" full of animals to pet.

THE NATURE Center also offers visitors 200 acres of meadows and woodlands. In the summer, the nature preserve is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Cost is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children.

Grand Rapids, Michigan's second largest city, has two small but outstanding museums. The Grand Rapids Public Museum, which records the city's fame as a furniture manufacturing center, has a "Gaslight Village" section showing how city streets looked in the 1890s. The museum is open daily at no charge. An adjoining planetarium presents programs on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays for a small fee.

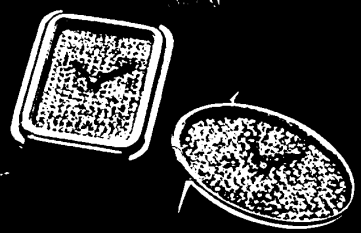
The Grand Rapids Art Museum houses a permanent collection of notable prints and German Expressionist paintings. Free to the public, this museum is also open daily.

This summer Grand Rapids visitors can take paddletown rides through town on the Grand River. From June 1-Sept. 1, cruises will be offered every day except Monday. The rides feature a commentary of the area's river history. Afternoon cruises cost \$2.50 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Tickets for evening rides cost \$5 a person.

Other Grand Rapids attractions include the Jean-Baptiste Park Zoo, the second largest in the state, and Alexander Calder's modernistic sculpture "La Grande Vitesse," a monumental landmark in the downtown area.

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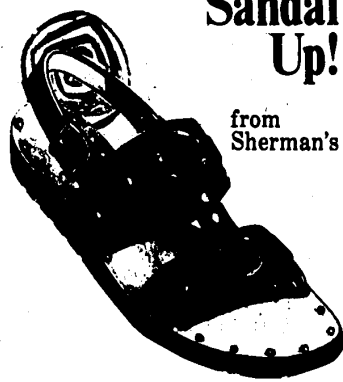
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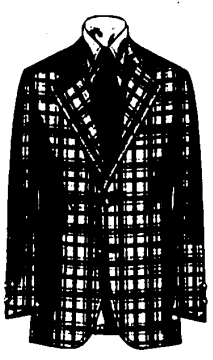
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Repairs take time

The 80 percent of Oakland County's road mileage that fails to meet the Oakland Road Commission's test of adequacy won't be converted to adequate roads overnight. The money's just not available.

But the road commission will have its homework done and be ready for construction when—and if—sufficient dollars do appear.

This is the significance of action taken this week by the Board of County Road Commissioners.

The road commissioners, according to Vice-Chairman William M. Richards, created a new Department of Transportation Planning and Environmental Concerns within the Oakland County Road Commission. The new department's first assignment is to prepare 10-year programs for improving the county's 744 miles of primary roads, 728 miles of local roads and some 600 miles of deficient subdivision streets.

"IN 80 DOING, Richards said, the board of road commissioners adopted and implemented three recommendations made by Citizens Research Council of Michigan, following its recent year-long management study of the road commission.

"Creation of this new department represents an upgrading and expansion of the function filled by our planning division," Richards said. "The department will plan in 10-year time phases instead of the five-year periods that prevailed in our previous long-range planning.

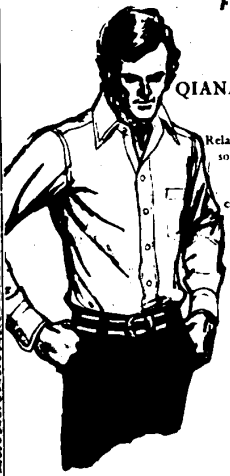
"It will also be responsible for planning facilities for nonmotorized uses such as bikes, equestrians and skiers on paths, and it will analyze the social, economic and environmental consequences of our proposed projects."

In addition to the three Citizens Research Council recommendations involving planning, the road commissioners adopted 23 more of the 135 CRC recommendations, for a total of 34 since the CRC report was delivered last October. The additional recommendations adopted this week deal primarily with the engineering and construction divisions of the road commission, Richards said.

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Whether your specialty is whipping up a chocolate mousse, or preparing an intimate dinner for two—you'll adore the Woodlands' gourmet kitchens.

Posh Woodlands is an exclusive cluster home community in the condominium concept. Conceived by prestigious developers, Aaron and William Gershenson, Woodlands' private country manor is much more than a Bloomfield residence. It's an exclusive lifestyle, and perhaps this is why the developers are limiting Woodlands to only 50 families.

A Woodlands' kitchen, finished with wood cabinetry crafted by Amish artisans, certainly reflects the custom building talents of Norman and Leopold Snyder. With attention to the total kitchen design, matching cabinet panels even dress the front of the built-in dishwasher, and outdoor vented range hood.

Yes, respecting the needs of the homemaker, I found Snyder & Snyder have designed the Woodlands' kitchens into posh culinary workshops!

You're sure to have a love affair with the kitchen center island that is equipped with its own electrical outlet. The convenient island can serve as a preparation area for rolling out pie dough, or assembling three dozen canapés on silver serving trays.

Just a step away from the kitchen, I was pleased to find an oversized utility room. In fact, after washing, drying, and folding the laundry—there is



\$100,000 cluster homes in cosmopolitan Bloomfield Hills with the matchless kitchens!

still ample room to do the ironing. But the highlight of these matchless kitchens is the walk-in pantry, tucked away in two of the elegant model homes. The pantry will hold all your groceries, even if you are entertaining 12 couples on the weekend. Room to spare? Yes, there are heavy-duty shelves for those heavy roasting pans and a place for the family butcher block.

Woodlands at Gilbert Lake is located on secure terraced acreage contiguous to the Bloomfield Library, near the corner of Telegraph and Lone Pine Road on Timber Lake Drive.

Models are open daily 12 to 6. Phone 642-1300 for an appointment. Your host Greater Bloomfield Real Estate Company, 646-6500.

Now, just wait until you see the posh bathrooms!