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Imaginary islands shown on old Great Lakes map

A map of the Great Lakes that was drawn 21 years before the start of the American Revolution has been published by the Historical Society of Michigan as part of a bicentennial series of historic maps.

The map, Carte des Lacs du Canada was published in 1744 by Jacques Nicholas Belin, a respected French engineer. According to historian Wynan Stevens, it was used to illustrate an explorer's ac-

count of discoveries in the region, the popular Journal d'un Voyage by Charlevoix.

Charlevoix actually had seen only parts of the lakes, and Belin had seen none of them, but that obstacle did not prevent Belin from drawing the detailed map.

"This area is entirely unknown," Belin had written across hundreds of miles of present-day Ontario. But scribbles about accuracy did not deter him when he care-

fully drew three imaginary islands in Lake Superior.

Fresh from the press, Belin's map was folded and inserted in the Charlevoix book while its ink was wet, producing a ghost image still visible in this reproduction. The ghostly islands also lingered, haunting map makers, navigators and statesmen for nearly a century.

Using Belin's map as a guide, the British drew up a map of the colonies in 1754 and included the three nonexistent islands in 1763, at the Paris Peace Conference ending the Revolutionary War. Benjamin Franklin and his British counterparts used the British map to establish the northern boundary of the new nation. Thinking that they were to get the majority of the imaginary islands, the British gave Lake Royal to America. Not until Michigan's territorial period 30 years later were Belin's cartographic forgeries exposed.

The Belin map is Plate II of a bicentennial series of historical maps of the Great Lakes and Michigan published in a limited edition of 1,000 copies. The authentic, full color reproduction measures 25 1/2 by 11 1/2 inches, the size of the original. Copies of the map are available from the Historical Society of Michigan, 2117 Washburn Ave. Ann Arbor 48106. For \$7 plus sales tax.

Metric highway signs spread through state

Motorists in Michigan are going to see more signs on state highways giving distances both miles and kilometers.

Two new signs have been erected by the Department of State Highways and Transportation on the I-94 freeway showing distances in Chicago and Detroit in both miles and kilometers.

The westbound I-94 sign near Waterbury reads: Chicago 100 miles (161 kilometers) and the eastbound I-94 sign near Allenton reads: Detroit 100 miles (161 kilometers). (One mile is equal to 1.61 kilometers).

TO HELP prepare the public for an expected nationwide conversion to the metric system, 21 signs showing distances in both miles and kilometers were erected on US-2 between Lansing and Gratiot in 1973.

Five such signs have been erected as part of a sign and roadside upgrading project on US-21 between I-94 and I-80 near Brighton. The sign on northbound US-21 near Whitmore Lake reads: Brighton 11 miles (17.7 kilometers) and Flint 30 miles (48.3 kilometers). The four similar signs on southbound US-21 give distances to Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Plymouth and Toledo (100 in both miles and kilometers).

Two signs giving distances in miles and kilometers have been posted on Interstate 66 between I-96 and US-10 freeways in Oakland County.

Four additional signs showing distances between cities will be posted on I-94 between Detroit and Port Huron and 12 signs in miles and kilometers will be posted on I-75 between Detroit and South St. Mane. Under general sign and roadside upgrading projects, possibly beginning this year.

WHERE THIS 50 percent of the world's population uses the metric system or is committed to metrization, which uses grams, liters and meters, for example rather than ounces, quarts and yards.

President Ford in December signed a bill declaring it the policy of the United States to plan increasing use of the metric system and to establish a U.S. Metric

board to coordinate and encourage voluntary conversion.

Many private companies, particularly those involved in international trade, are gradually adopting the metric system. Engineers in the Department of State Highways and Transportation have used metric measurements in designing a bridge and section of highway in preparation for an eventual conversion to the metric system.

THE METRIC system was devised in the 18th and 19th centuries to meet more precise needs of technological progress and to standardize measurement. It measures distance, weight and volume in units related to every other metric unit by a factor of 10. No conversion factors are in simple.

Although the metric system was legislated for use in the United States in 1866, it never replaced the older, more cumbersome but already established English system. Today both systems are used in physics, chemistry, photography, medicine and military ordinance.

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County road board likes state road bill

A bill before the Michigan Legislature that would provide an extra \$474,000 for Oakland County roads every year has the support of the Oakland County Road Commission.

The bill, which was unanimously endorsed, was introduced by State Rep. Francis H. Spaniol, D-Oakland, to assist county road commissions in improving and maintaining medium density roads.

The board not only endorsed the Spaniol bill, says Chairman Fred J. Hanes, we are asking the county board of supervisors also to give it their support and to join in asking state legislators for representatives from Oakland County to work for its passage.

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"If you make \$10,000 or more a year, I can show you how to get a \$1,500 income tax deduction and use it to start your own retirement plan."

Recent legislation has made it possible for individuals and self-employed persons to establish their own retirement plan through a special savings account called an Individual Retirement Account.

We asked DETROIT BANK-er Robert K. Smith to explain this new service.

Who is eligible for an I.R.A.?
"An Individual Retirement Account, or I.R.A., may be opened by any employed or self-employed person not currently covered by any other retirement plan. Even if you are already enrolled in a retirement plan, but have a working spouse who is not, he or she is eligible."

How does an I.R.A. differ from a regular savings account?
"There are important differences. First, all contributions to your I.R.A. are fully tax deductible. What's more, even the interest earned on this account is exempt from income tax until it is withdrawn. And when you finally begin making withdrawals, you pay taxes only on the amount you withdraw each year. Like savings accounts, however, I.R.A.'s offer a range of plans paying annual interest rates from 5-1/2 to 7-1/2 percent and are insured to \$40,000 by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Incidentally, these are the highest interest rates that any bank can pay."

Are there special regulations for I.R.A.'s?
"Yes. Regulations only permit you to save a maximum of \$1,500 a year, or 15% of your annual wages, whichever is less. You can open an Individual Retirement Account with just \$25, then it's up to you when and how much you want to deposit, in amounts of \$25 or more, up to your maximum each year. You can add to your account each payday and when your savings reach \$1,000 or more, you can convert them to 6-year 7-1/2% Investment Certificates, or if you make your annual deposit in one lump sum, you can put it into 6-year 7-1/2% Investment Certificates at that time. The money must remain on deposit at least until you reach age 59-1/2, unless you become permanently disabled."

Should you withdraw prior to that, Federal regulations for Investment Certificates require that you pay substantial penalties on the amount withdrawn, and I.R.A. regulations impose further penalties for premature withdrawals."

Being tax-sheltered, savings in an I.R.A. should accumulate much faster, right?
"Amazingly so. In fact, here is a chart which shows what you could accumulate if you invested \$1,500, before taxes, at the beginning of each year. The first column shows how your interest accumulates with the help of a tax-sheltered I.R.A., the second shows how your interest accumulates without the help of a tax-sheltered I.R.A. and the third shows the difference."

At the end of	7-1/2% Interest with help of a tax-sheltered I.R.A.	7-1/2% Interest without help of a tax-sheltered I.R.A.	You gain with an I.R.A.
10 years	\$23,900	\$15,524	\$7,376
20 years	71,433	42,700	28,733
30 years	133,489	85,423	48,066

*This assumes tax payments in a 24% tax bracket and that the total contribution is deposited at the beginning of each year.

How can I start my Individual Retirement Account?
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