AntiqueWeek's GUIDE TO

Antique Shops & Malls

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AntiqueWeek

GUIDE TO ANTIQUE SHOPS & MALLS 2024

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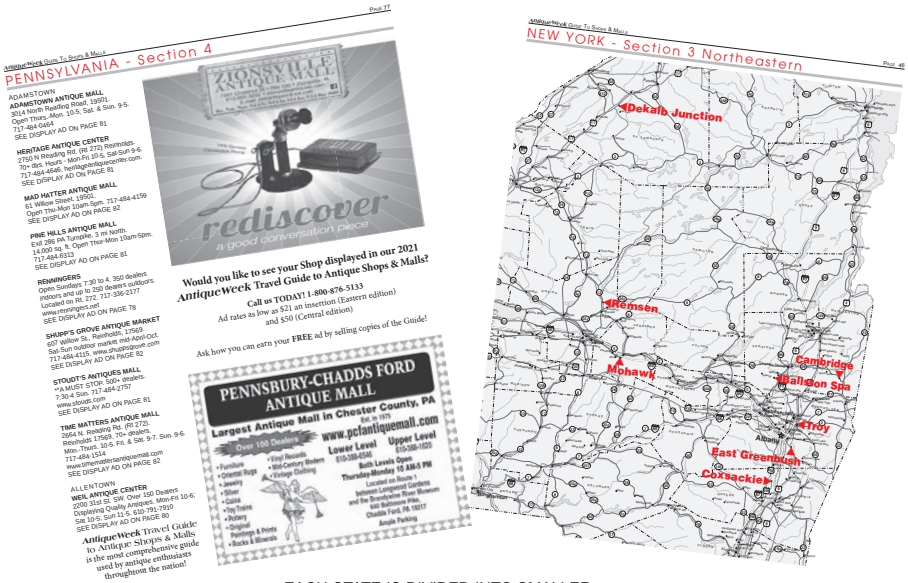

EACH STATE IS DIVIDED INTO SMALLER GEOGRAPHICAL SECTIONS LISTED IN RED TYPE AT THE TOP OF EACH PAGE

TOWN NAME

NAME OF SHOP OR MALL

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DELAWARE - 1 SECTION

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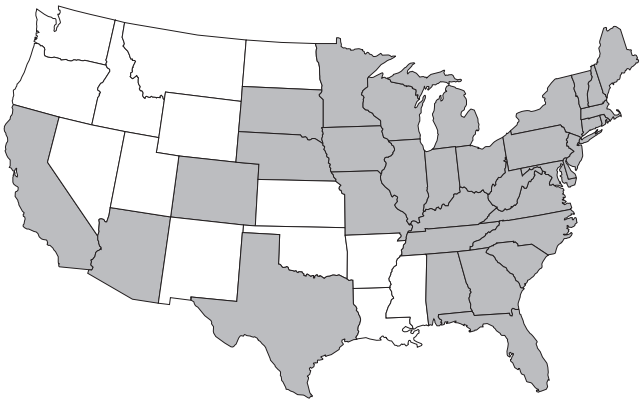
TELEPHONE NUMBER

DESCRIPTION OF STOCK, DEALERS ETC.

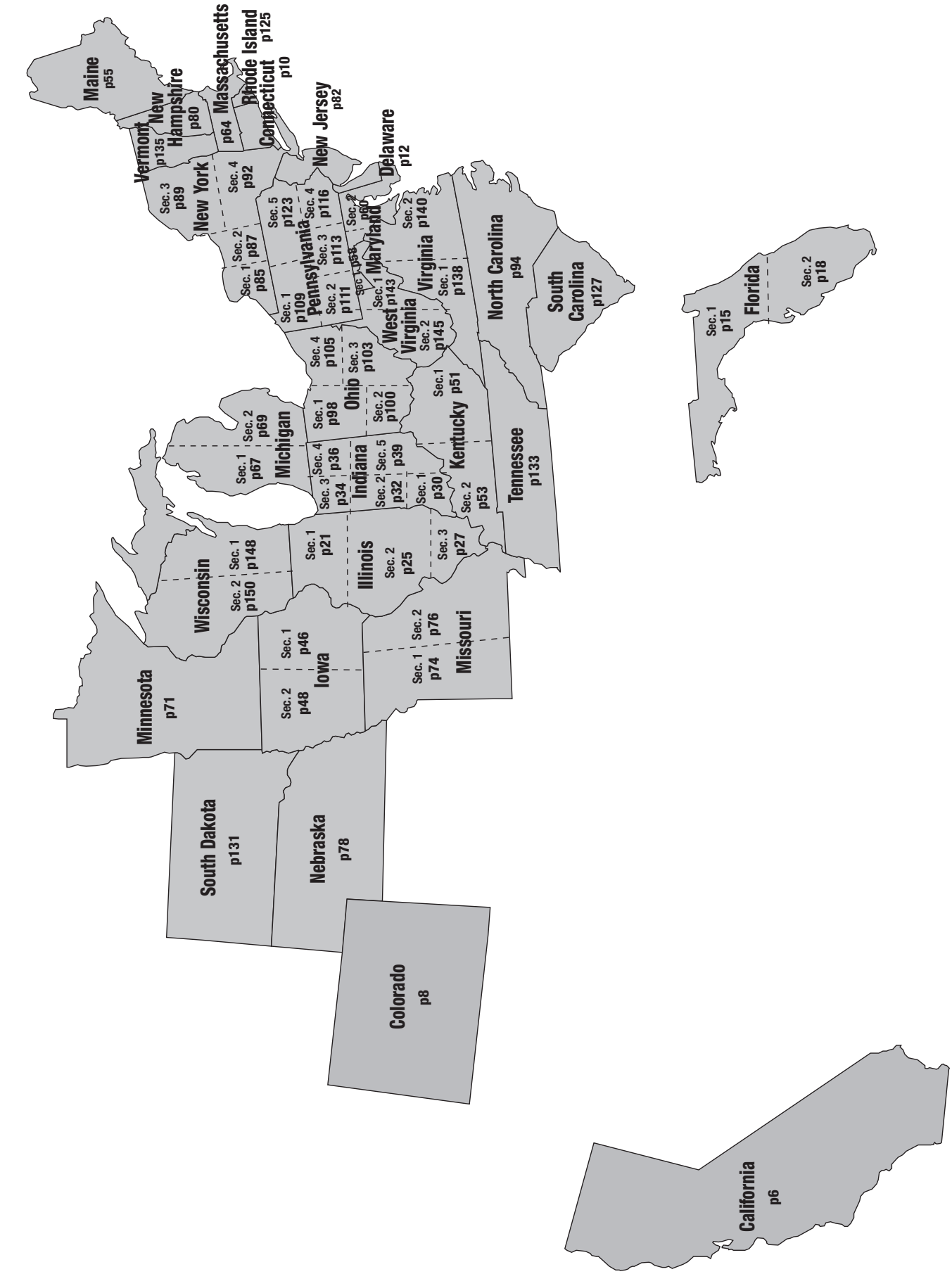
What is AntiqueWeek's Guide to Antique Shops & Malls?

The ***AntiqueWeek Guide to Antique Shops & Malls*** is distributed in early April, featuring antique shops and malls, collectibles dealers, and antique shows. Each state covered is divided into sections. Using road maps, town names are highlighted to show which areas have antique shops. Following the map is a listing (by town) of those shops, and corresponding display ads. The ***AntiqueWeek Guide to Antique Shops and Malls*** publishes one edition. If you're interested in advertising in next year's shop guide, call us at (800) 876-5133.



The Antique Shop Guide covers the states of Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

MAP INFORMATION



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SEE DISPLAY AD ON PAGE 1

Vintage cigarette machines are repurposed to sell art

BY WILLIAM FLOOD

If you think old-school cigarette vending machines have gone the way of the dinosaurs, think again. In a case of adaptive reuse at its finest, a North Carolina artist and entrepreneur has been repurposing them into dispensers of miniature artwork. Known as Art-o-mats®, you put your money in the slot, pull the handle, and out pops a cigarette pack-size piece of original art.

The idea was the brainchild of Winston-Salem, N.C., artist Clark Whittington who converted the first machine as a novel way to market his own black and white photography during a local art show. That machine made its debut in 1997 and was so popular at the cafe that hosted the show, it became a resident fixture. From there, word - and the machines - spread quickly.

Now, more than 200 machines have been revamped and are in locations in 30 states, two Canadian provinces, and as far afield as Australia. Art-o-mats® have shown up at New York's Whitney Museum of American Art, The Maryland Institute College of Art, and

SEE ART DISPENSER ON PAGE 9

Above: A very popular machine is in Dick's Den, a campus bar near The Ohio State University.

Right: In the basement of the prestigious Reynolda House Museum in Winston Salem, North Carolina sits an Art-O-Mat® decked out like an Operation game.

COLORADO - 1 Section

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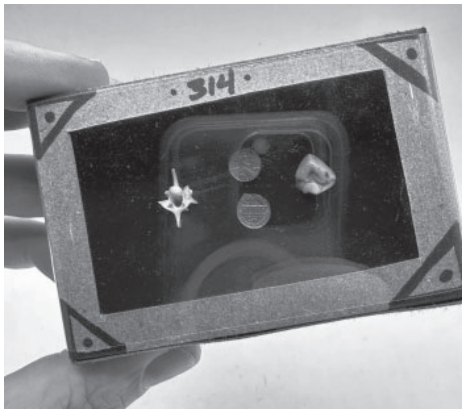


Above: Artist Jeanne Taber crafted Petit Cabinets of Curiosities for the machines. They are now showing up for resale on eBay.

Art Dispenser

From Page 7

even at the Smithsonian American Art Museum

Each Art-o-mat® machine is distinct, painstakingly refurbished from any of the various surviving machines that Whittington acquires. Cigarette machines were made from the 1930s through 1970s and Art-o-mats® are reconditioned to reflect their era. From there, things get more inventive. Many are clearly doo-wop 50s, yet one was fashioned to look like a huge Operation game and another like a Sputnik satellite.

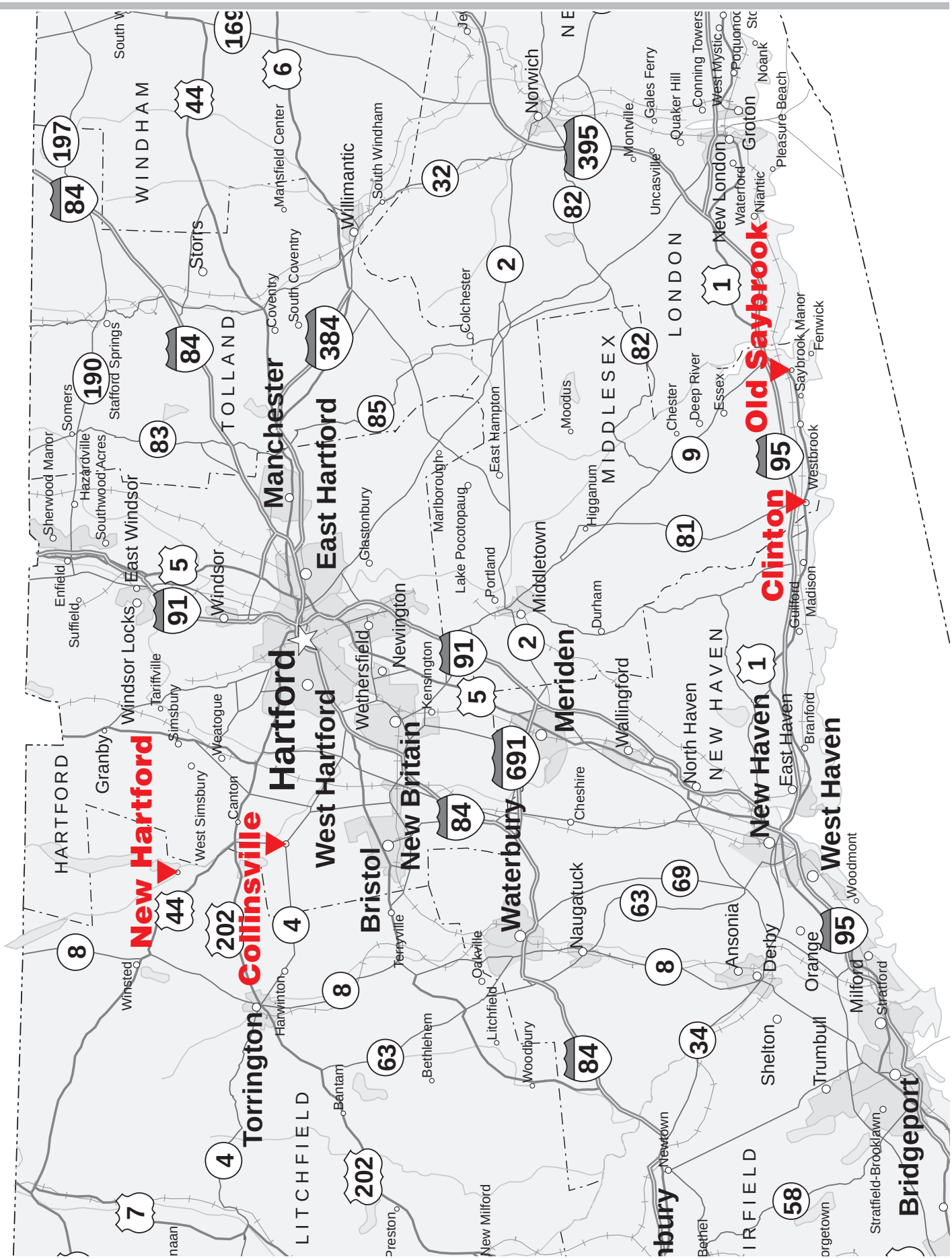
Without a doubt, the restored machines are themselves works of art. Yet, their appeal is more than visual. There's a visceral element to interacting with them - with a tangible reward at the end. Whittington describes those pluses on his company's website, "The experience of pulling the knob alone is quite a thrill, but you also walk away with an original work of art. What an easy way to become an art collector."

Depending on the machine, it can hold from six to more than 20 different artists' creations. Originally, you could insert a mere four quarters for a vend. Today, it takes $5 to dispense a piece of art, often via a token purchased at the location's cash register. Some Art-o-mats® have been retrofitted to accept $5 bills.

See Art dispenser on page 11

Above: A beautiful mid-century-themed Art-O-Mat® graces the Yellowstone Art Museum. (Photo: Wikimedia Commons)

CONNECTICUT - 1 Section



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Above: Owners of the oddities shop WitchLab in Columbus, Ohio say many "regulars" return to acquire new artwork from their machine.

Art Dispenser

From Page 9

The original works range from miniature paintings to jewelry. Each piece is approximately the size of a pack of cigarettes to fit and move through the machine. There's a bit of mystique to the purchase because you can see who the artist is along with a sample, but not the exact piece of art. It's much like turning the handle on one of those toy vending machines you might have experienced as a child.

Whittington, probably recalling the days when getting word out about his work was tough, says an Art-O-Mat® is a good way for the artists to get exposure and the public to get introduced to an artist's work. Most purchases include details about the maker and contact information for making later purchases. North Carolina painter Kelly Taylor takes full advantage of that, "I glue my business cards to the back so Art-O-Mat collectors can contact me for commissions."

In that sense, the diminutive pieces are like samples or working business cards.

Above: An Art-O-Mat® is on display at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. (Photo: Christopher Carfi, Flickr.com)

Collectively, the machines are filled with works from about 400 artists from the states and several foreign countries. Tens of thousands of pieces of art have been purchased from machines located in bars, coffee shops, art galleries, and even Whole Foods stores. The machine at the Saint Kate the Arts Hotel in Milwaukee, alone, has dispensed over 10,000 pieces. In an interview for the Columbus Dispatch, Tiffany Boggins, owner of oddities shop WitchLab said, "Our customers love it so much…our regulars will come back, and whenever they're in, they check it out to see what new things we have."

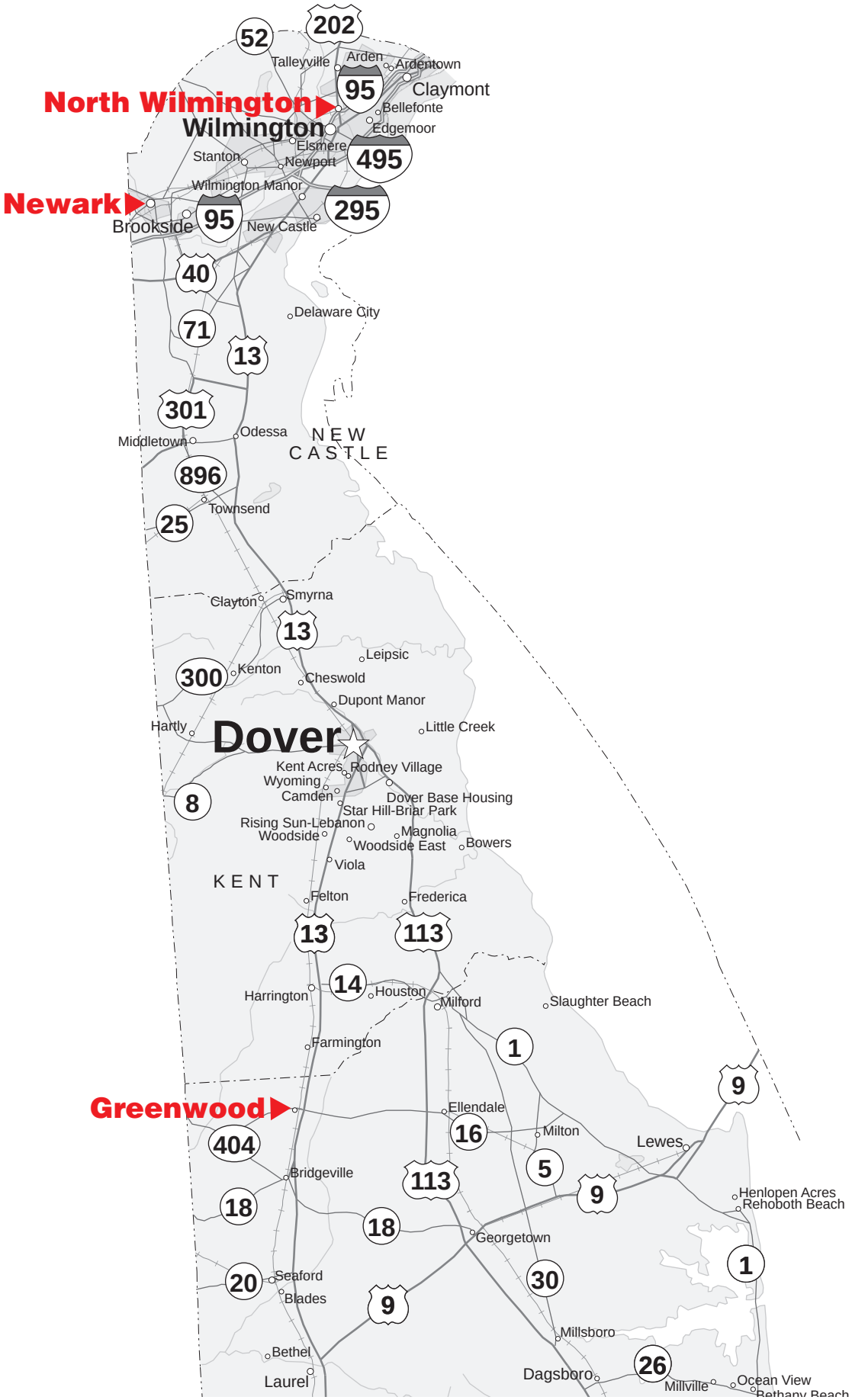
The machines and their surprises inside have been so well received that Whittington created a spinoff organization called Artists in Cellophane to recruit local artists interested in having their art included. New Mexico artist Joanne Kozuchowski said, "Since I began in 2017, I have sold nearly 1,500 pairs of Re*Marker*able earrings at 55 locations in 22 states." Proceeds from machines are shared between the artist, the Art-O-Mat® organization, and the location.

Whittington refers to the whole endeavor as a "garage/basement operation" but Art-O-Mat® is hardly obscure. Last year, the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem hosted a "25 years of Art-o-Mat" event. The machines have been profiled in publications ranging from Readers Digest to Playboy - one even appeared on the Rachel Ray show.

Collecting Art-O-Mat artworks is now a "thing" and collectors have been known to plan travels around where machines are located. Many trade art pieces and national swap meets have formed. As might be expected, pieces now show up on eBay, often listed for more than their $5 cost.

If your interactions with vending machines have mainly entailed purchasing a soda or bag of chips, now you can try something different. Hunt down an Art-O-Mat near you (locations are provided on the artomat.org website) and enjoy the distinctive experience of buying art with the pull of a handle. Alternatively, you can order a collection of 10 packs of art in an Art-O-Carton® online, but where's the fun in that!

DELAWARE - 1 Section



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Pull That Rope

Five summer Olympics from 1900 to 1920 included Tug of War as a team sport. Gold medal winners included Great Britain (2), USA (1), and Sweden (1). Another gold went to a mixed team of Danes and Swedes in 1900.

Mocha ware

Funny how the cheapest day-to-day items produced years ago are now the most coveted. Mocha ware falls into this category. This type of ware was made throughout Great Britain, France, and North America. Mocha is a dipped utilitarian ware that is lathe-turned and slip-decorated. The main body of the ware is either white or a buff color with colored slip-bands and then some decorative element. Many have a branching moss-looking elements. Others have a spiraling worm-like addition. Most mocha was produced to be used in taverns and homes. The oldest piece of mocha found is a mug that dates to 1799. It is in the Christchurch Mansion Museum in Ipswich, England. Mocha ware pitchers are also very desirable.

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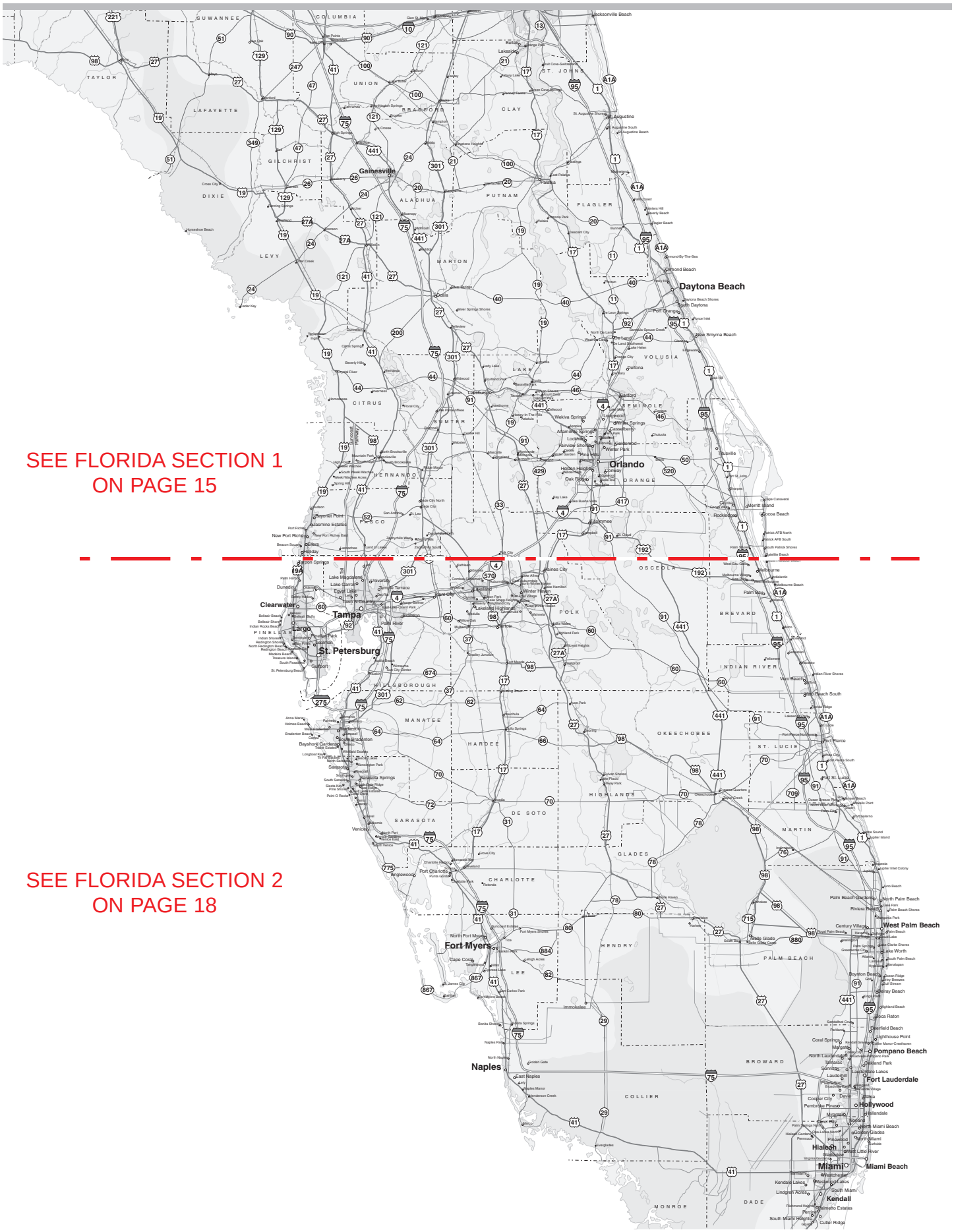
FLORIDA - 2 SECTIONS: PAGES 14-19



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SEE FLORIDA SECTION 2 ON PAGE 18

FLORIDA - Section 1

FLORIDA - Section 1

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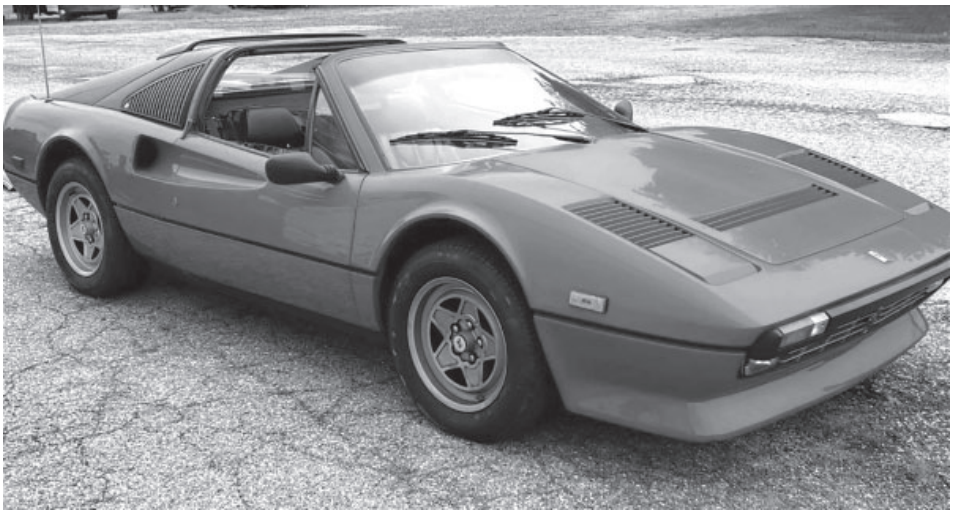

Above: Selling for $37,000, this Ferrari 308 was just like the one driven by Tom Selleck in Magnum P.I.

Ferrari screamed away with $37,000 at Briggs estate auction

BY WILLIAM FLOOD

GARNETT VALLEY, Pa. — On September 29, Briggs Auction held an exceptional curated fine estates auction featuring an exciting pair of classic cars, antique and mid-century modern furniture, decorative and fine art, silver, and jewelry from selected Delaware Valley estates.

Arguably the most sensational item was a red 1984 Ferrari 308 GTS Quattrovalvole like the one featured in the 1980s TV series, Magnum P.I. This classic supercar, with a 2.9-liter V8 quadcam engine, five-speed manual transmission, and only 67,250 miles, racked up the auction's high of $37,000.

Designer mid-century furniture was one of the spotlighted categories and the offerings did not disappoint. A Tobia Scarpa for Cassina Model 925 lounge chair with a dark walnut frame and leather-covered seat/back exceeded high estimates five-fold, grabbing $3,400. Going for twice its high estimate, at $2,200, was an 88-inch Jydsk Mobelvaerk In-

SEE BRIGGS ESTATE AUCTION PAGE 19

Above: These Canadian Sinda chairs with stunning cathedral-style backs ($700)

Above: 19 antique microscopes sold modestly. The highest, at $225, went for a 19th-century British brass compound microscope in its original fitted case.

Left: Eighteen pieces of rustic Adirondack furniture were offered, selling from $50 to $200. These lamp tables reached $150.

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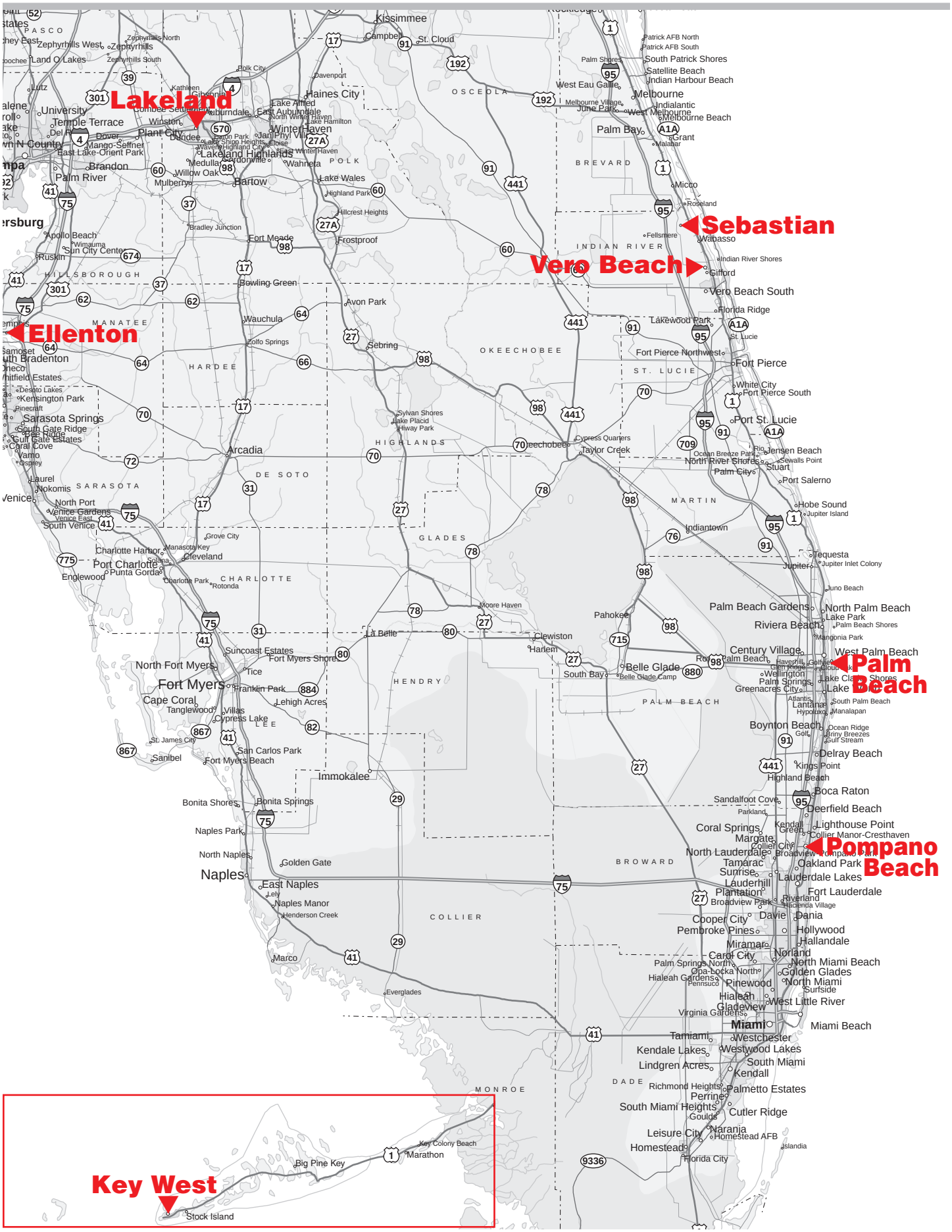
FLORIDA - Section 2



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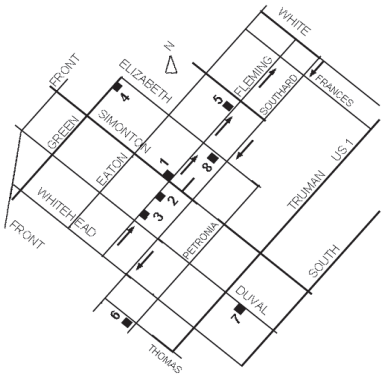

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Briggs Estate

From Page 16

terform Collection Danish modern rosewood sofa on chrome legs. Bidding went to $700 for an amazing set of eight Sinda, Canada sculpted walnut dining chairs with upholstered seats/backs.

Including the furniture, sixteen lots hit five-figure winning bids. Grabbing the auction's second-highest sum of $3,800 was a 39 ½ x 21 ½-inch early 20th-century Louis Vuitton monogram steamer trunk with the original liner and key. An Irish 4 ½-inch diameter silver-covered round box with a domed lid, totaling 9.96 troy ounces, bid to $2,200. And, a 26-inch diameter stained and leaded glass hanging lampshade, attributed to New York's Duffner & Kimberly, reached $1,400.

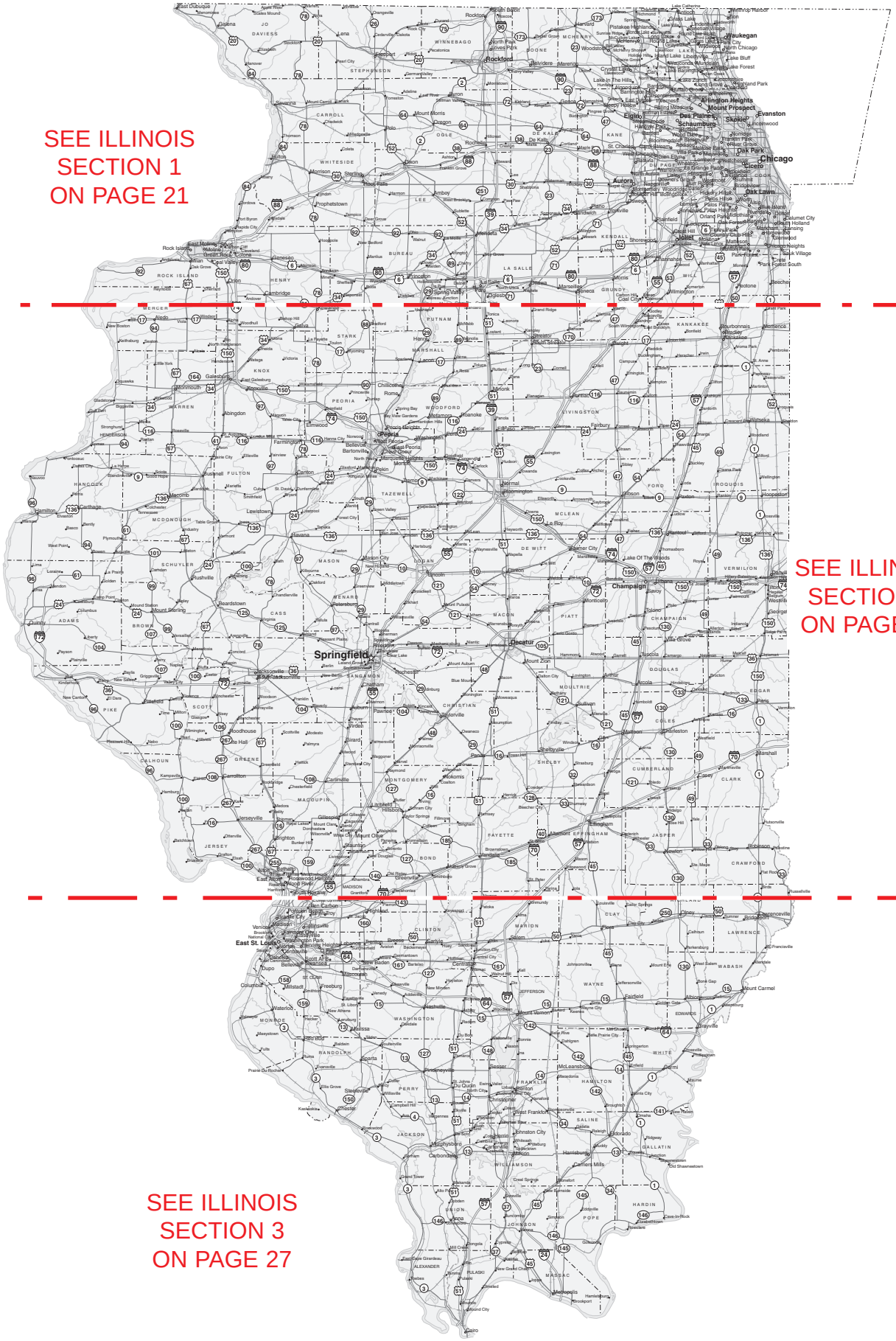
The auction commenced with vintage jewelry, with Native American pieces at the outset. The first lot, a sterling silver Concho belt with 12 alternating turquoise-mounted cabochons and a sterling buckle went for $475. A silver cuff bracelet totaling 1.30 troy ounces snagged $175. It featured a carved bear design and was signed by maker Doug Chilton (Tlingit/Pacific Northwest, 20th-century). Grabbing a bit less, at $125, was a Navajo sterling silver cuff bracelet, weighing in at 2.13 troy ounces. That piece was set with azurite, malachite, and onyx and was signed and dated 1986 by Thomas R. O' Keef.

After the Native American pieces came world jewelry, including an Italian 18K yellow gold foliate-form pendant brooch that soared to $1,700. The piece featured a central 12mm x 9mm emerald cut tourmaline surrounded by cut peridots and diamonds (31.9 dwt). A pair of Tiffany & Company 18k yellow and white gold rope twist clip-on earrings brought $900.

Following the jewelry - and doing surprisingly well - were three dozen lots of silver tableware. A grouping with seven pieces including a George Shiebler tray with repousse edge, two Georg Jensen cups, and a Cartier sterling basket, all totaling 21.86 troy ounces exceeded silver value, at $550. AAs for that second car? It was a green Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme with a green vinyl interior. It was equipped with a V8 with four-barrel carburetor, automatic transmission, power steering, and power brakes. As of October 6, it still was available at a buy-it-now price of $15,000.

ILLINOIS - 3 SECTIONS; PAGES 20-28

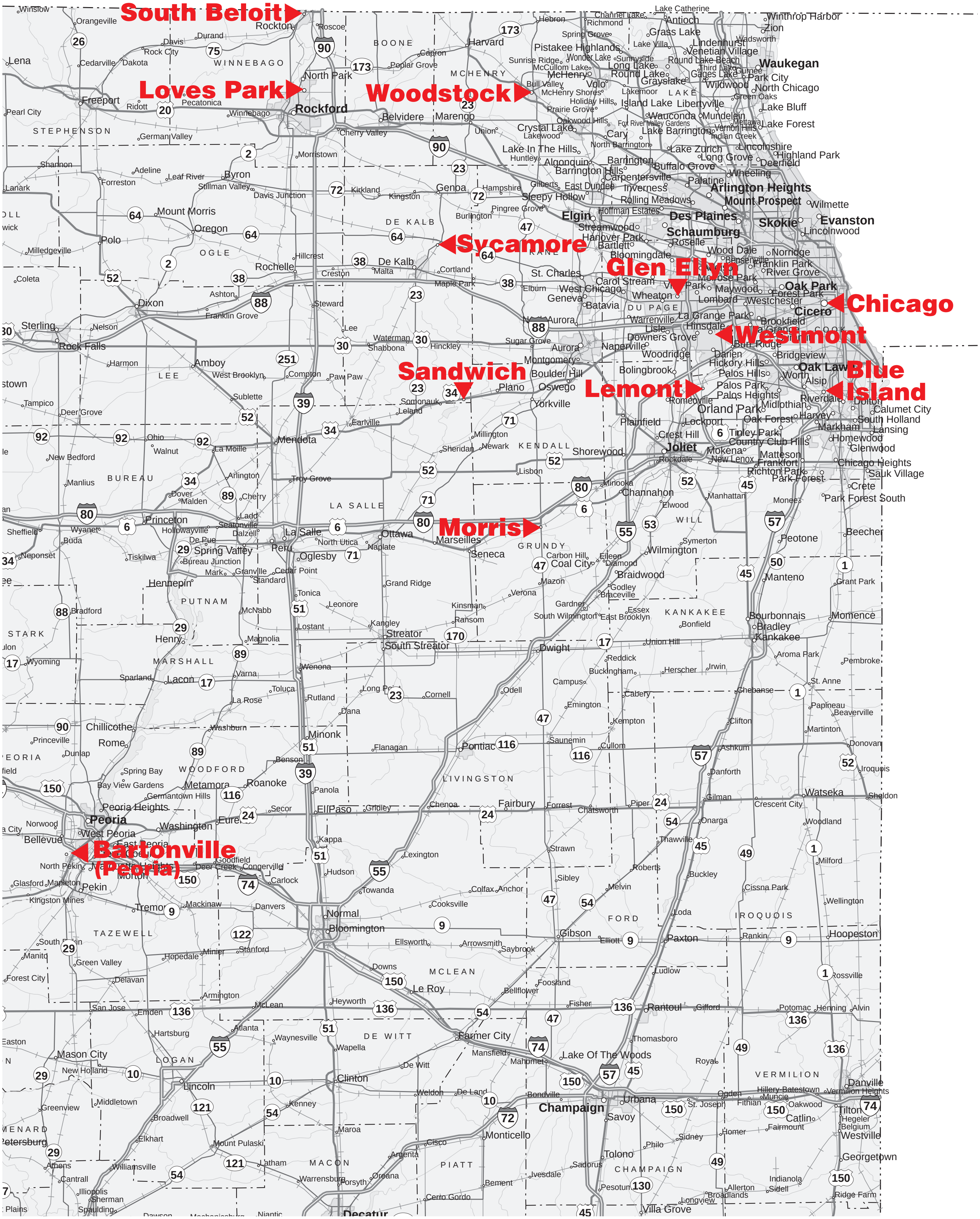
SEE ILLINOIS SECTION 1 ON PAGE 21



SEE ILLINOIS SECTION 2 ON PAGE 25

SEE ILLINOIS SECTION 3 ON PAGE 27

ILLINOIS - Section 1 Northern



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ILLINOIS - Section 1

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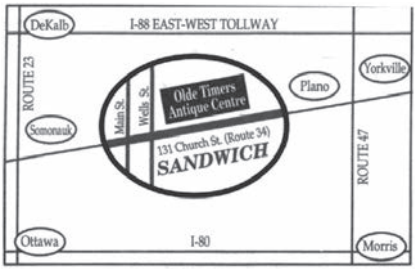

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ILLINOIS - Section 1

Well soitenly the Three Stooges live on

By Barbara Miller Beem

Some describe it as slapstick, a long-running act that featured three grown men, each with an identifiable stage persona, not to mention an equally distinctive hairdo. Think sight gags and lots of physical (or simulated physical) contact, along with a healthy sprinkling of over-the-top sound effects and wise-guy threats ("Why, I oughta. . ."). Maybe comedian Moe Howard got it right when he labeled this brand of entertainment as "farcical comedy." But whatever it's called, one thing is clear: Generations of audiences have long laughed at the antics of the Three Stooges. And dedicated fans still collect a variety of memorabilia related to "Hollywood's Sensational Screwballs."

Beginning in the early 1920s, two brothers from Brooklyn, Moe and

Above: The Three Stooges live on, in film and in wax.

See Three Stooges on page 26

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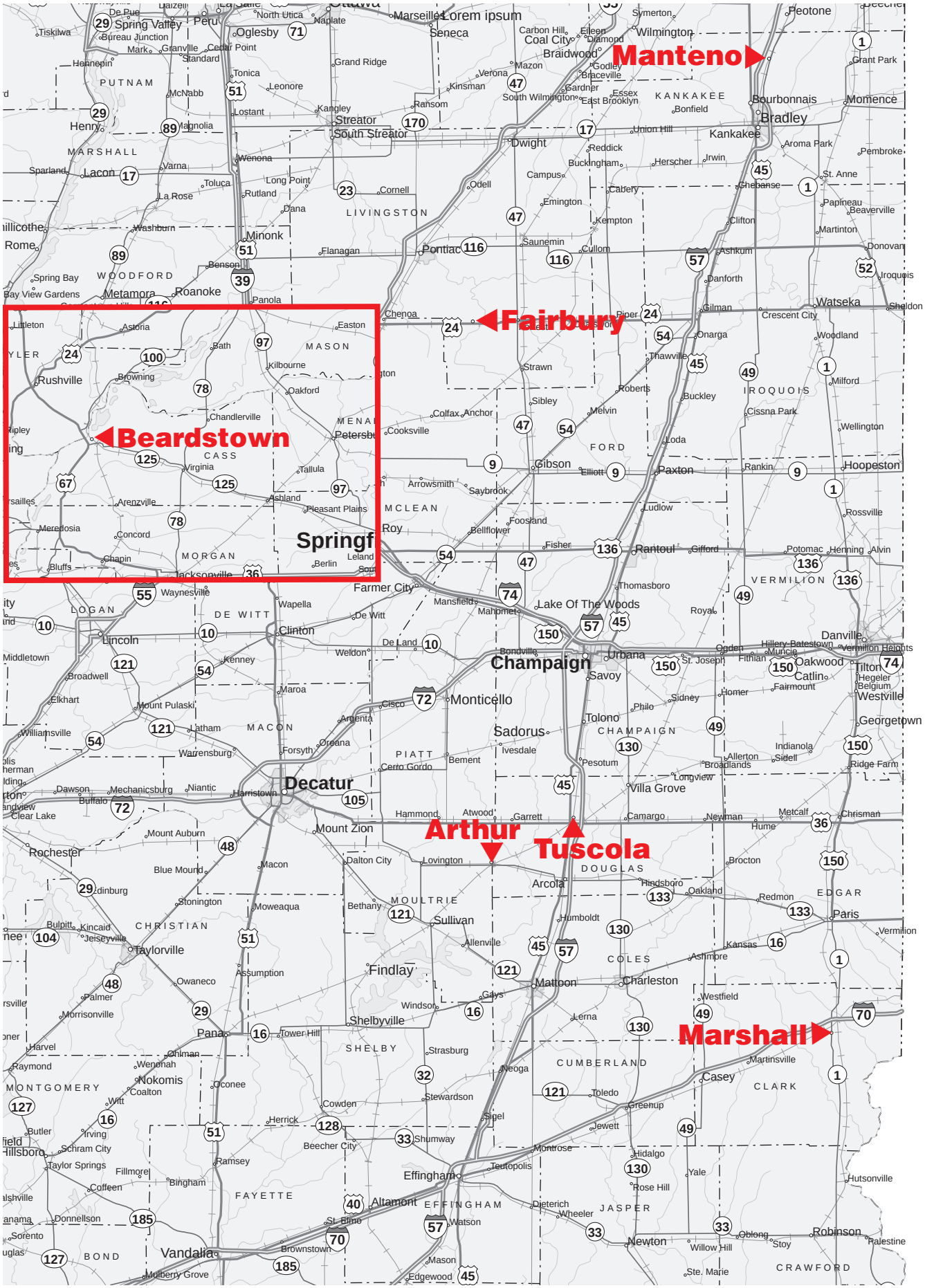

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Three Stooges

From Page 24

Shemp Howard, teamed up with a childhood friend to form a vaudeville act, "Ted Healy and His Stooges." Thus marked the beginning of show business careers that would endure for the next half-century. Along the way, the act evolved, as the Stooges became an independent act, not a backup to another comedian.

Several changes in personnel ensued, with the addition of Philadelphian Larry Fine. And while Moe and Larry remained the "constants" of the act, there would be four comedians who, for a variety of reasons (including health), would come to fill the role of the third Stooge: Shemp, his brother "Curly" Howard, Joe Besser, and finally, "Curly Joe" DeRita

One thing that did not change, however, was the role that each Stooge played. Moe was the leader and brains (under his "bowl cut" hairdo) of the group. Larry was notably the guy in the middle, the one with frizzy hair, the "glue," in the words of longtime fan Gary Lassin. And the third Stooge, often with a shaved head, was usually the butt of the joke, the last to understand what was going on.

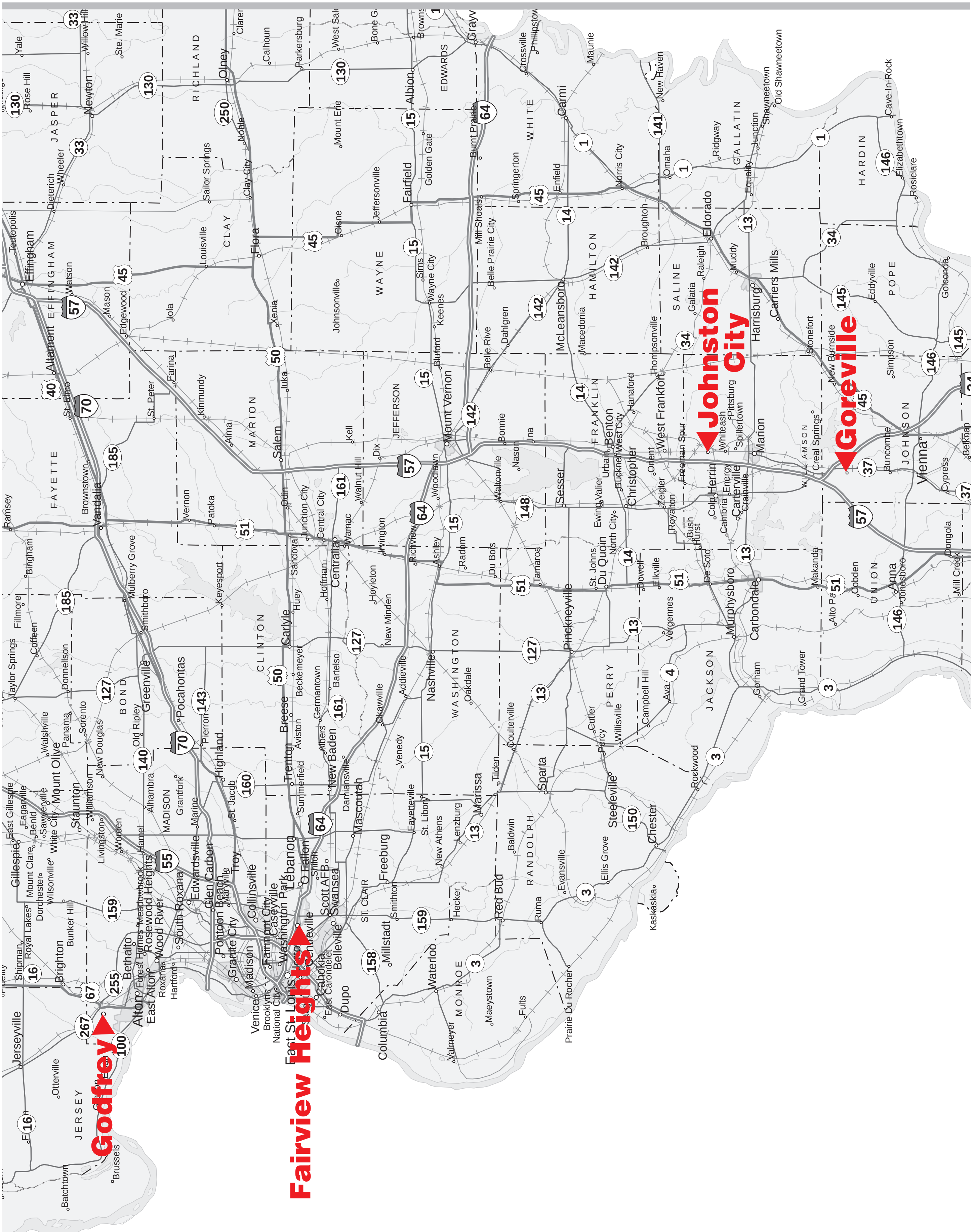
But that's getting ahead of the story. Making a living on the vaudeville circuit and hoping to hit it big was physically demanding. The Stooges lived out of steamer trunks, going from one stop to the next along the rail line, playing live shows at theaters along the way. Grueling, to be sure, Lassin agreed.

Despite their decades-long popularity, the Three Stooges were not an overnight success. Working steadily for years on vaudeville stages, they were "getting their comedy chops in order," he continued. As the popularity of motion pictures grew and vaudeville acts faded away, the "Boys" got their first big break in 1934, a contract with Columbia Pictures, which led to their appearance in approximately 200 comedy shorts. Lassin acknowledged that, while the Boys were good actors, they worked with talented producers and directors, as well as supporting actors and sound effects artists. And thanks to films, their work would not be lost to time.

All the while, the Stooges continued to perform live. In his recent 765-page book, "A Tour De Farce: The Complete History of the Three Stooges on the Road," Lassin documented more than 1,500 personal appearances made by the Stooges at a myriad of venues. Wherever they appeared, the Boys were met by enthusiastic crowds at venues as varied as theaters, military

See Three Stooges on page 28

ILLINOIS - Section 3 Southern



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Above: A mecca for fans of the Three Stooges, The Stoogeum opened in Ambler, Penn., in 2004. Lassin has refused requests for those wishing that their ashes be scattered there.

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Three Stooges

FROM PAGE 26

bases, and amusement parks, as well as hospital wards, the circus, and a corn palace. Over the years, the Stooges never turned down an opportunity to sign an autograph or pose for a photograph. When approached, they routinely went into their act, because, as Lassin notes, "They were hams."

With the end of their Columbia contract in 1957, a new generation of fans were introduced to the Stooges, thanks to the airing of their work on television. Although they continued to make public appearances, the days of the act were numbered: Larry suffered a paralyzing stroke in 1970, thereby bringing an end to nearly 50 years of laughs.

These days, comedians work solo. And the nature of their humor is certainly different than that of a century ago. But the legacy of the Three Stooges lives on, thanks in large part to Lassin's efforts. What began as a childhood interest in the comedy team became personal when he married the granddaughter of Larry's brother. As a Stooge-in-law, Lassin continued his own hunt for memorabilia related to the act. Surprisingly, he noted that there was never an attic full of Stooge-related souvenirs in the family ("they were relatives, not movie stars"). "Just a comic book here, a letter there" is how he described what was kept.

Lassin's work to preserve the legacy of the Stooges took a new direction when, approximately 40 years ago, he assumed the leadership of the Three Stooges Fan Club; he proudly noted it is one of the longest continuously running fan clubs in the country. Not surprisingly, he estimated that 90 percent of the approximately 2,000 club members are men.

And then, in 2004, Lassin opened what serves as the club's headquarters, the Stoogeum, located in Ambler, Pennsylvania. Open by appointment, the public is welcome to tour this 10,000-square-foot, three-story museum that houses nearly 100,000 Stooge-related artifacts. And "soitenly," there is a gift shop. On the other hand,

Above: The Three Stooges enjoyed a resurgence in popularity in the 1950s, and with that came a flood of Stooge-related items that are now collectible.

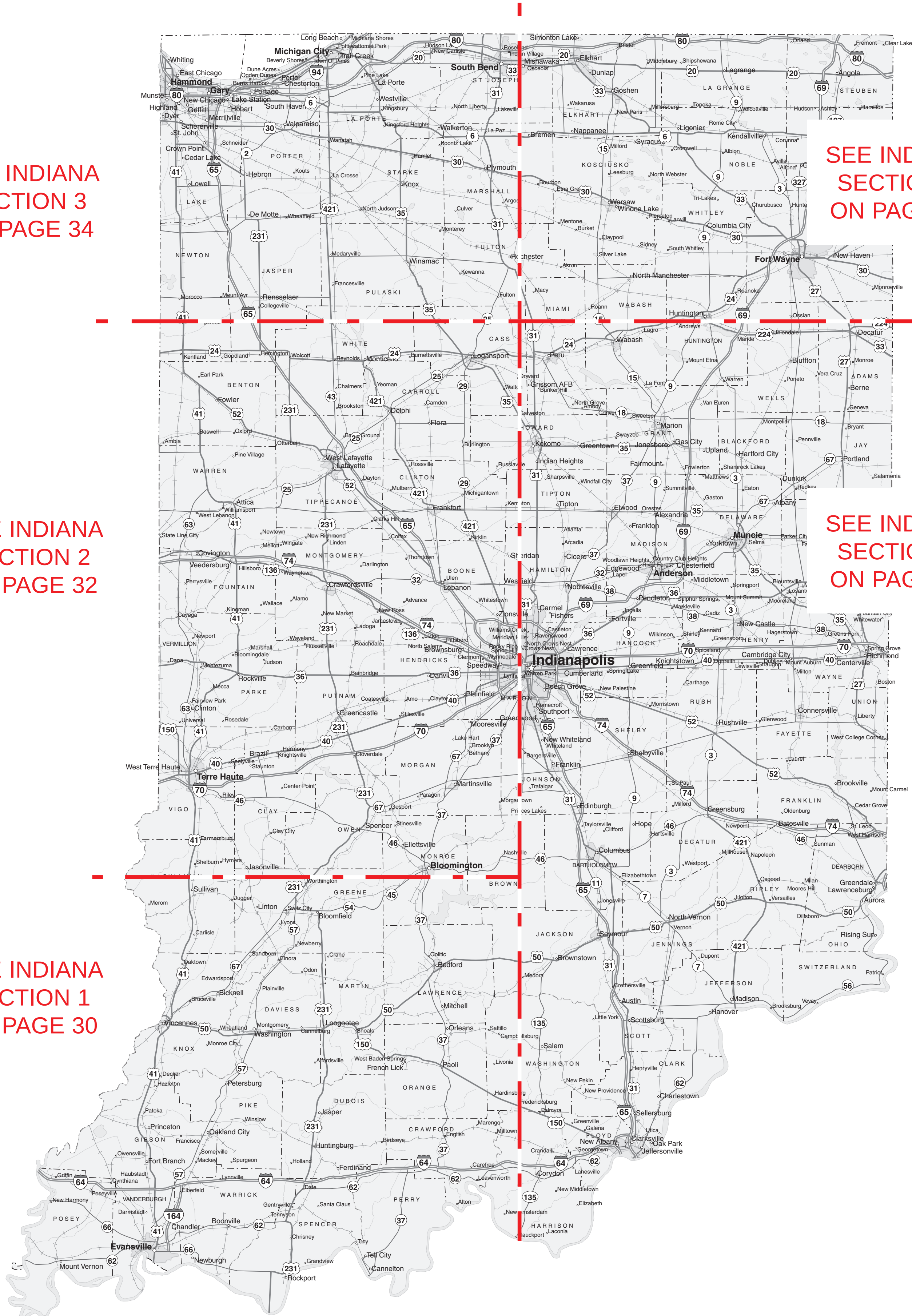
Lassin draws the line to those devoted fans who have requested permission for having their ashes scattered at the Stoogeum.

As for those beginning a Stooge collection, Lassin suggested that one strategy might be to assemble a complete set of trading cards, purchased individually for a few dollars (to be upgraded later on). A previously read Three Stooges comic book can be procured for about $20. Early collectibles include autographs, photographs, and contracts, as well as costumes and props that are "incredibly rare." (Note: Lassin cautions that fakes and reproductions abound.) More accessible are newspaper clippings, posters, and playbills. And during the 1950s and beyond, "everything from soup to nuts" was made, including toys, games, and toilet paper with Three Stooges trivia questions.

So how does Lassin describe the Three Stooges? In the end, he offered his insight into what made the Three Stooges "click," and why their fans continue to adore them. "The best way I can explain it is that they were human cartoons." If a bomb were to blow up at your feet, your clothes might be "torn and tattered, but you'd live to tell about it." Hit in the head and knocked unconscious? A splash of water will make it right again. Angry at your boss? "Give him a swift kick in the rear end" (and not lose your job). And, for the record, no one ever lost their sight from all those pokes in the eye, because in the world of the Three Stooges, "nothing is real." Nyuk, nyuk, nyuk!

stoogeum.com

INDIANA - 5 SECTIONS; PAGES 29-44



SEE INDIANA SECTION 3 ON PAGE 34

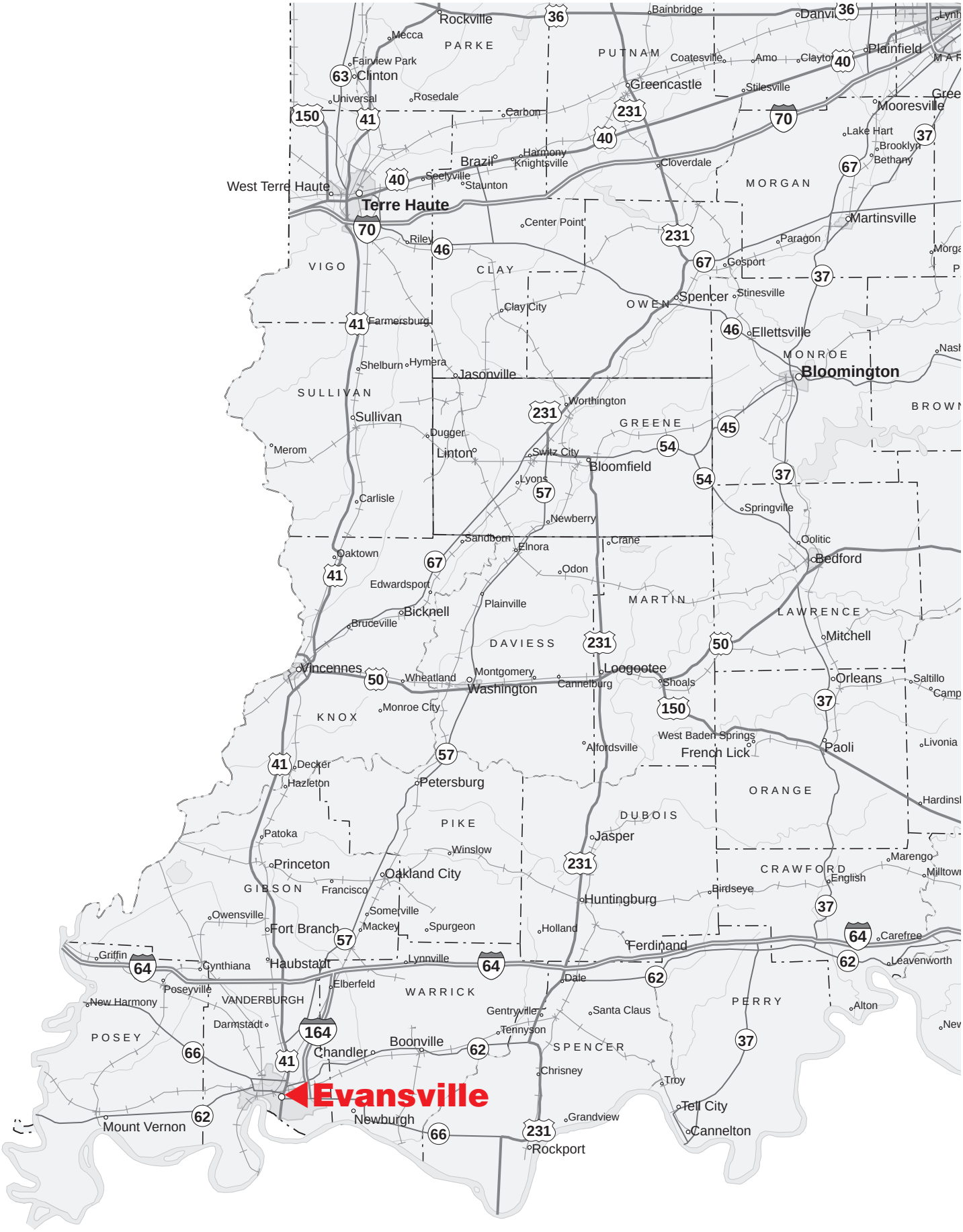
SEE INDIANA SECTION 4 ON PAGE 36

SEE INDIANA SECTION 2 ON PAGE 32

SEE INDIANA SECTION 5 ON PAGE 39

SEE INDIANA SECTION 1 ON PAGE 30

INDIANA - Section 1 Southwestern



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Above: Penny-farthing bikes hailed from the 1870s-1880s. The auction featured two of them.

Civil War-era quilt stitched up $13,000 at Opfer

By William Flood

TIMONIUM, Md. — As part of its impressive 2023 season, on October 5, Richard Opfer Auctioneering held a "live" online auction via its branded online and mobile site. The event featured 477 lots of quality antique and modern furniture, artwork, estate jewelry, ceramics and other glassware, and textiles from around the world.

Exceeding the high estimates at $13,000 was a Baltimore album quilt top, dated February 14, 1862. It featured 25 squares that portrayed patriotic images like the Washington Monument, Frigate Cumberland, liberty caps, and eagles. It was signed by members of several notable Maryland families.

While the quilt was the only item to grab five figures, 25 other lots secured four-figure winning bids that often sailed well past high estimates. Among the items was a two-tone gold/stainless men's Rolex wristwatch with its original box and paperwork. It pulled $5,000.

In addition to the Rolex, 16 other lots with estate-quality jewelry were offered. A lady's solitaire diamond ring with fitted contour ring, graded VG-Ex, sold for $3,250. The 14k two-tone gold mounting held a 1.02 carat, VS2 clarity round diamond surrounded by 22 smaller round diamonds (3.7 dwt total). The contour ring held another 21 round diamonds (2.7 dwt total).

Later, a 14k gold flower-form ring bid to $1,3000. The piece, graded G-VG, featured five diamonds and five red stones (possibly rubies) in its interior along with 25 diamonds on the petals. Additional diamonds and red stones graced each side of the band (10.4 dwt total).

Collectibles from across the globe sold well, including two different sets of Asian roof tile figurines. A lot containing a pair of painted ceramic figures - a tiger with rider and dragon with rider - graded in G-VG condition, hit $2,700. The other, a set of three, two of flying birds and a figure on a horse, graded G-VG, went for $2,200.

From the opposite side of the world came two 60-inch-tall penny-farthing bicycles. They were in overall good original condition, although one was missing its seat and the other missing the pedals. They were wheeled off for $1,600 and $1,800.

Three of ten vintage travel posters also hit four figures. Taking the lead, at $2,500, was a Pan Am "Fly to the Caribbean by Clipper" poster by M. von Arenburg. The 42 by 28-inch non-backed poster was graded VG. Bidding went to $1,300 for an Air France "Amerique du Nord" by Luc Marie Bayle (Hubert Baille printers). The non-backed 38 by 24-inch lithograph, rated G-G+, had some evident staining. A $1,100 bid took home a framed 61 by 45-inch Art Nouveau Cognac

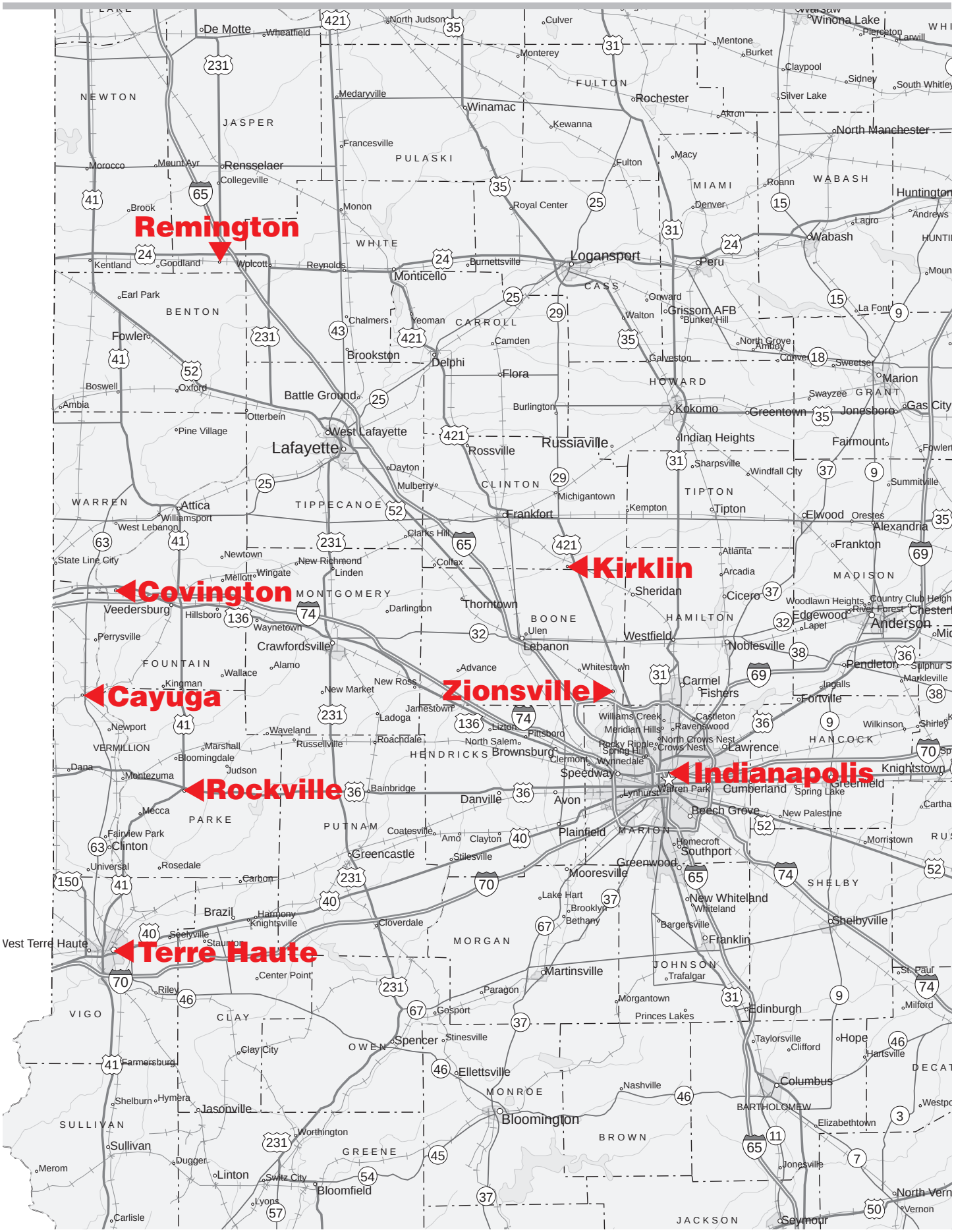
Above: The auction's highest bid went for this circa 1862 signed patriotic quilt top from Baltimore. It hit $13,000.

Jacquet advertising poster by French artist Camille Bouchet.

In addition to the posters, there were more than 50 lots of wall art, encompassing everything from Asian woodblocks and antique oils to photographs and contemporary prints. Pricing ran the gamut from under $50 to more than $2,500. Hitting the category's high, at $2,600, was an oil on canvas of Robert E. Lee on his horse Traveler. The 38 by 52-inch framed painting, in need of some cleaning, was by William Hallweig, a 19th-cen-

See Opfer Page 35

INDIANA - Section 2 West Central



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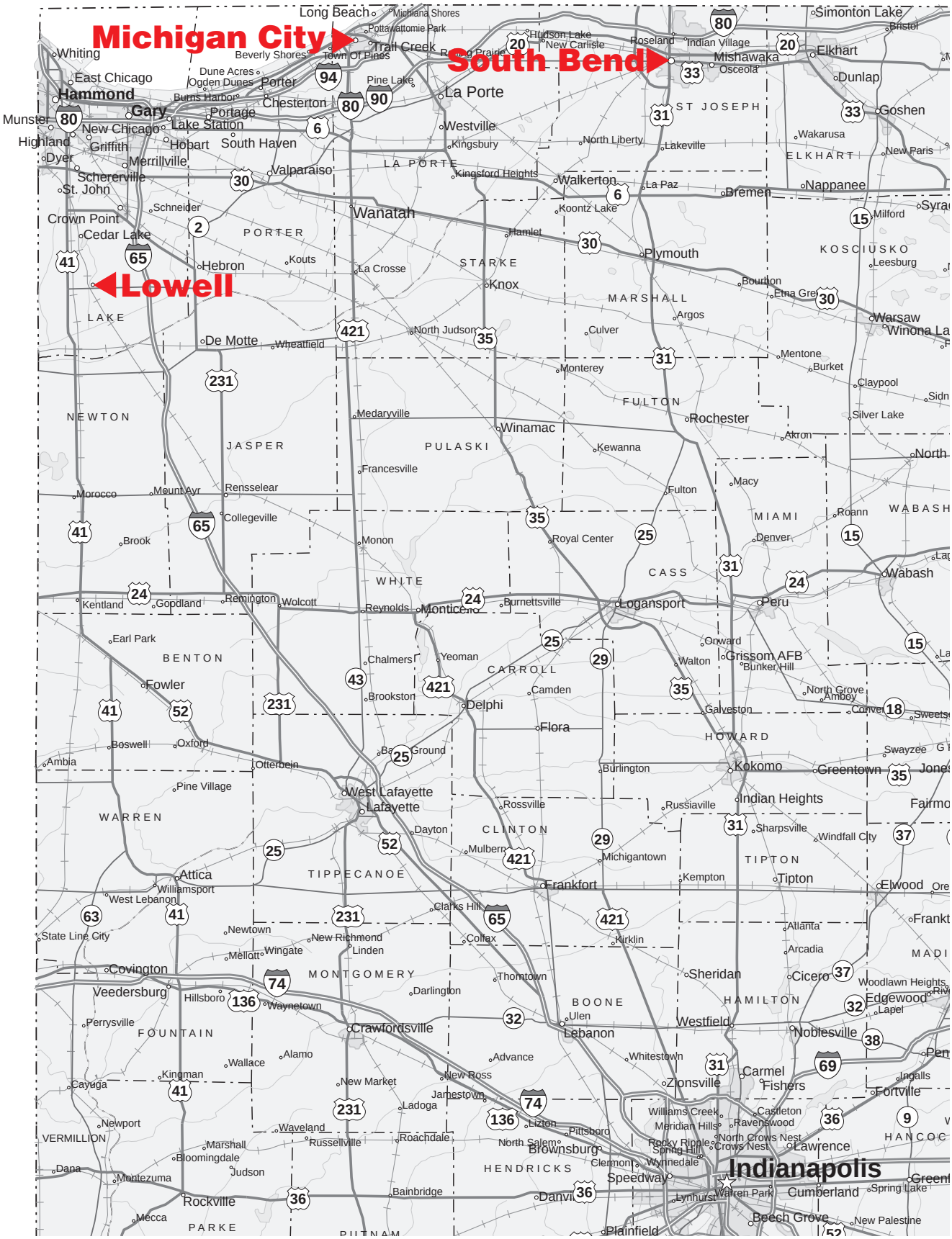

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Opfer

From Page 31

tury in-house artist for Baltimore's Bendann Galleries.

Landing $2,400, was a pair of Gene Kloss (American, 1903-1996) etchings. The matted, framed, and signed artist's proofs were entitled "Age Old Rhythm" and "Song of Creation." Not getting the same traction were four Grace Hartigan (American 1922-2008) abstract lithographs that sold from $500-$700, well under pre-auction estimates.

Above: The motifs on this early dresser may indicate South Asian origins. Bidding for it reached $1,400.

For bidders interested in ceramic, 14 lots of English blue transferware were available. All of it sold solidly. A 17-inch Riley platter, portraying a country house, graded G-G+ with normal wear, reached $250. A 21-inch platter by Woods, featuring Lambton Hall in Durham, graded G-EX, with some bottom wear, sold for $140. A 10-inch good-condition Staffordshire covered dish with a City of Canterbury scene and flower finial only got $40.

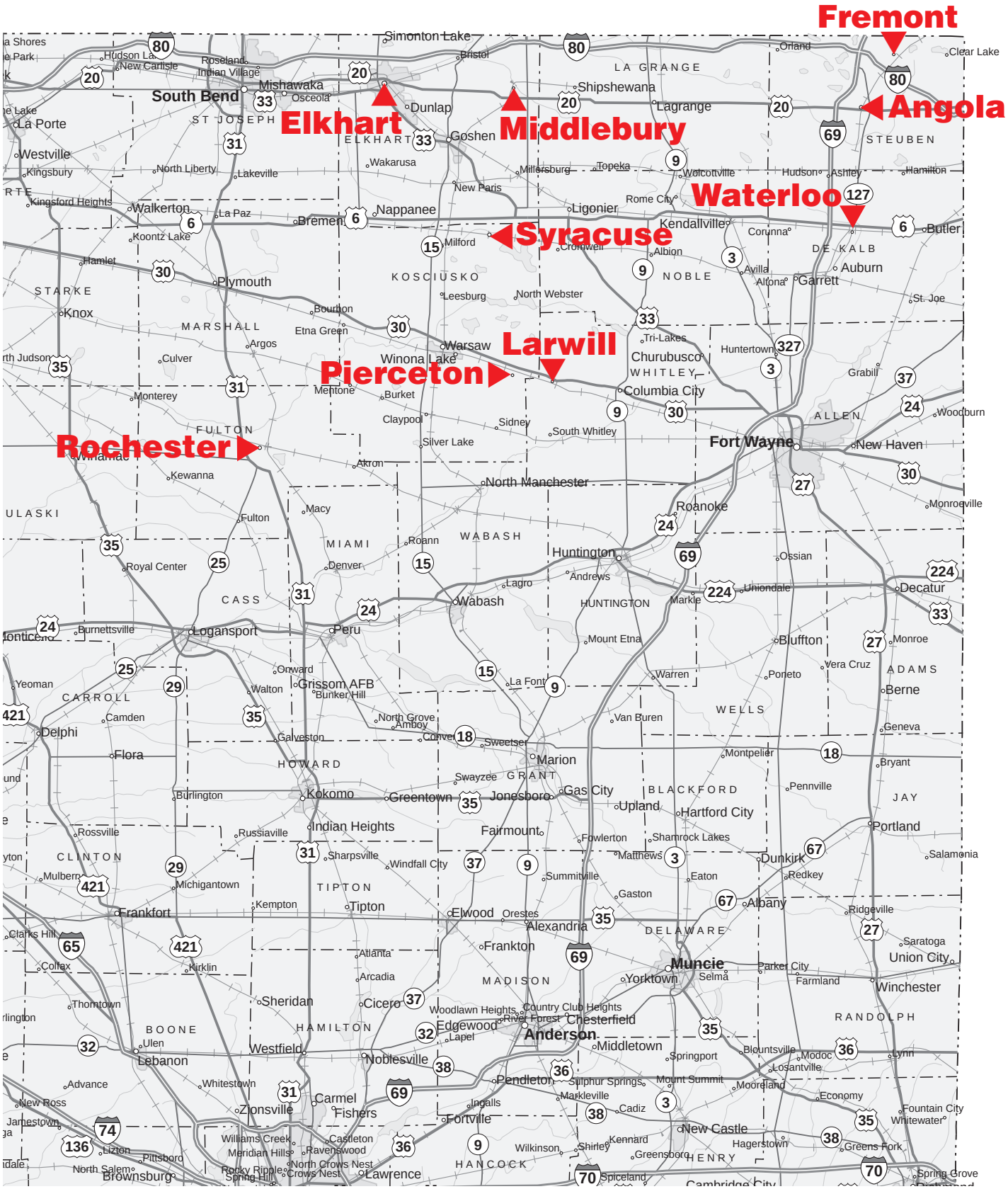
Bidders with an eye toward pottery of the American Southwest were rewarded with two dozen lots of Native American ceramics, including eight lots with pieces from Acoma Pueblo.

Below: A pair of mid-century Bernardo Plycraft bentwood armchairs in need of some TLC sold for $170.

Of those, a 13 ½-inch Nathan Vallo pot grabbed $450. A pair of 5-inch painted pots, one with a bird and geometric pattern, signed W. Aragon, and another embellished with a geometric pattern, signed R. Aragon, sold for $300.

See Opfer Page 38

INDIANA - Section 4 Northeastern



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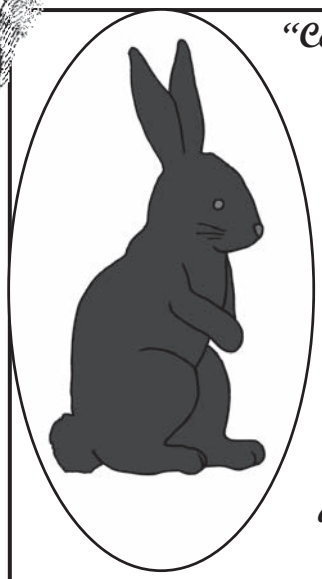

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INDIANA - Section 4

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Opfer

FROM PAGE 35

Those in search of furniture were also well-rewarded. Across the auction, sixty lots of furnishings spanning the 18th through 20th centuries were offered. Bidding rose to $2,900 for an Althorp, George III-style four-poster bed. Its turned columns featured pinecone finials and acanthus leaf baluster bases that complimented a serpentine arched headboard with molded cornice.

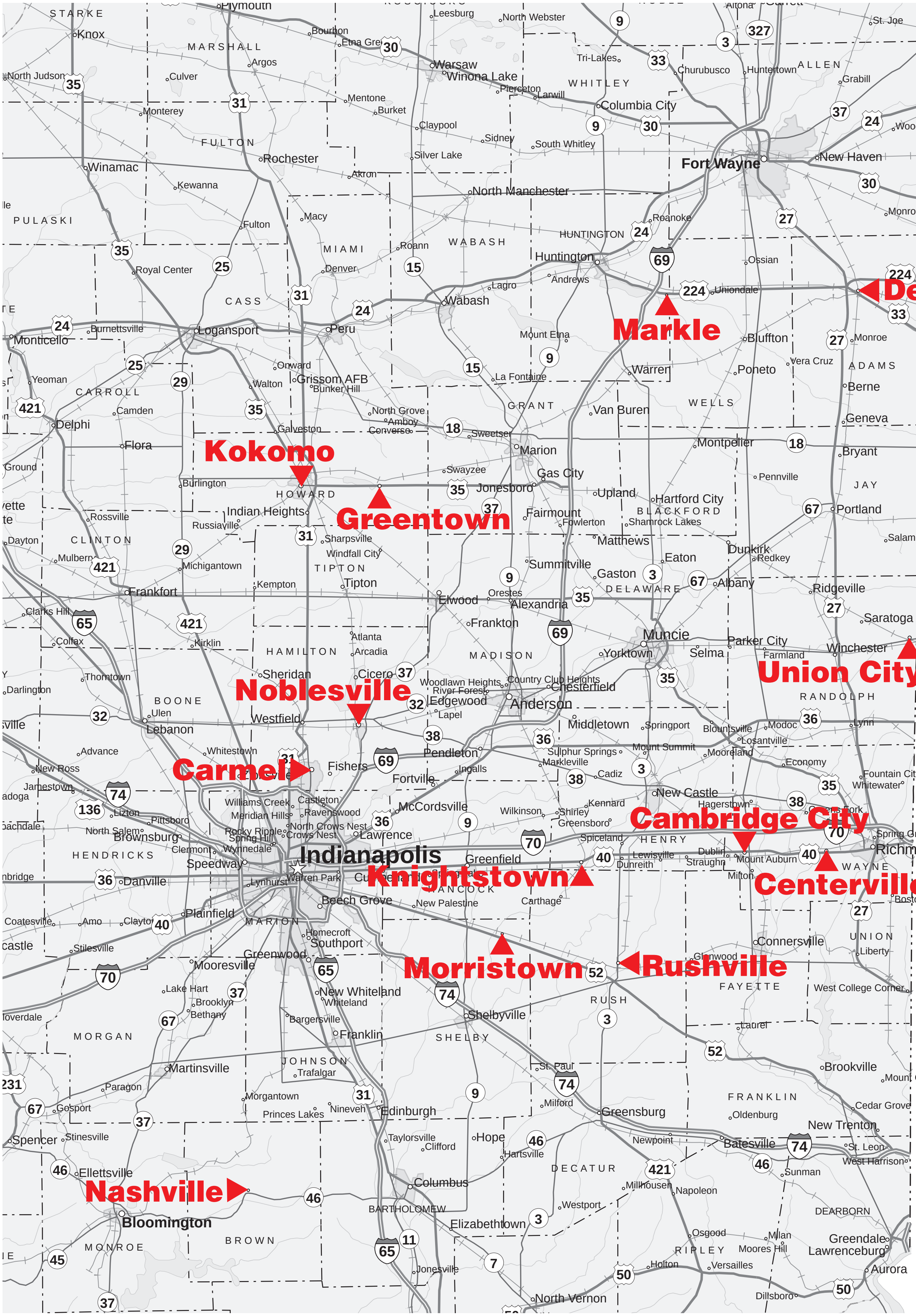
Later came a 31-inch-high early 20th-century oak four-drawer chest with bun front feet, that reached $1,400. No less interesting, but coming in at only $350, was a 48-inch tall Deforest, checkerboard-pattern Humphrey Bogart dresser showing normal wear. Some pieces came in lower than expectations, like an oval refinished mahogany Hepplewhite foldout dining table (expandable from 48-98 inches) that only picked up $50.

Lower-end bids weren't always shy of expectations and echoed some interesting buys. A 36-inch-tall antique fire screen with a mahogany frame and needlework on one side sold for $90, almost hitting high estimates. A bid of $60 picked up an early 1900s mahogany Cheval-style shaving mirror that was also squarely within estimates.

For information on upcoming Opfer auctions, visit: opferauction.com

Below: Two dozen lots of Native American pottery were offered. This pair of signed 5-inch Acoma sold for $190.

INDIANA - Section 5 East Central



INDIANA - Section 5

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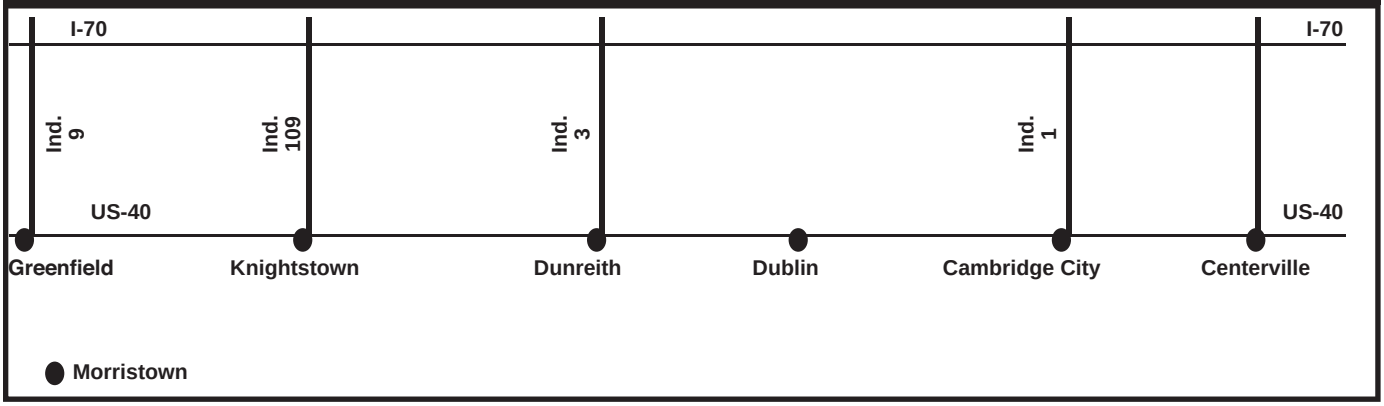

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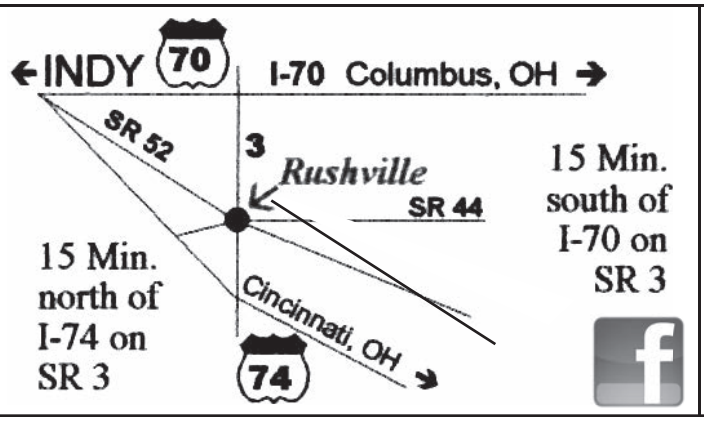

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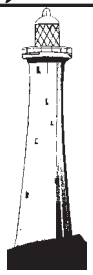

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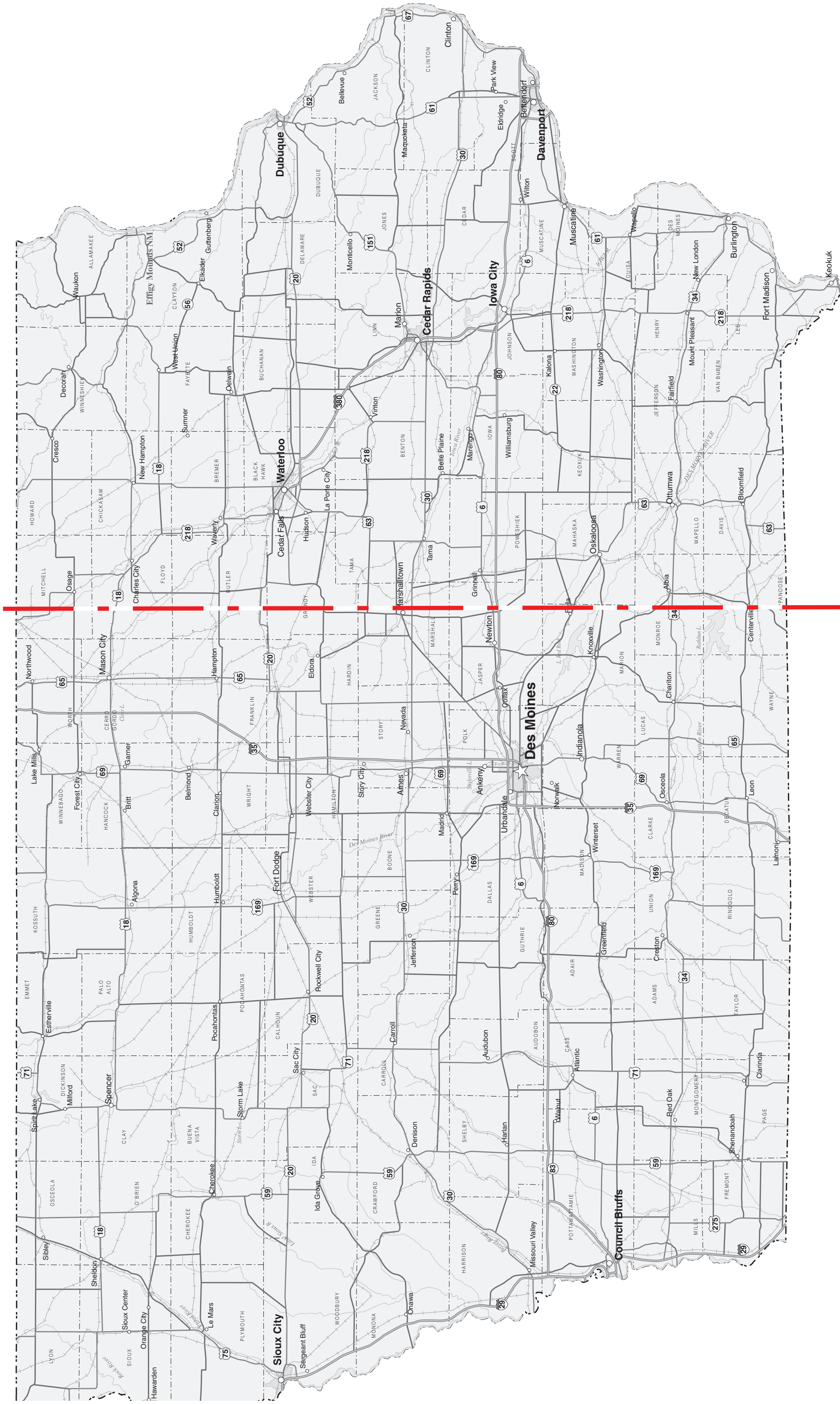
IOWA - 2 SECTIONS; PAGES 45-49

SEE IOWA SECTION 1
ON PAGE 46



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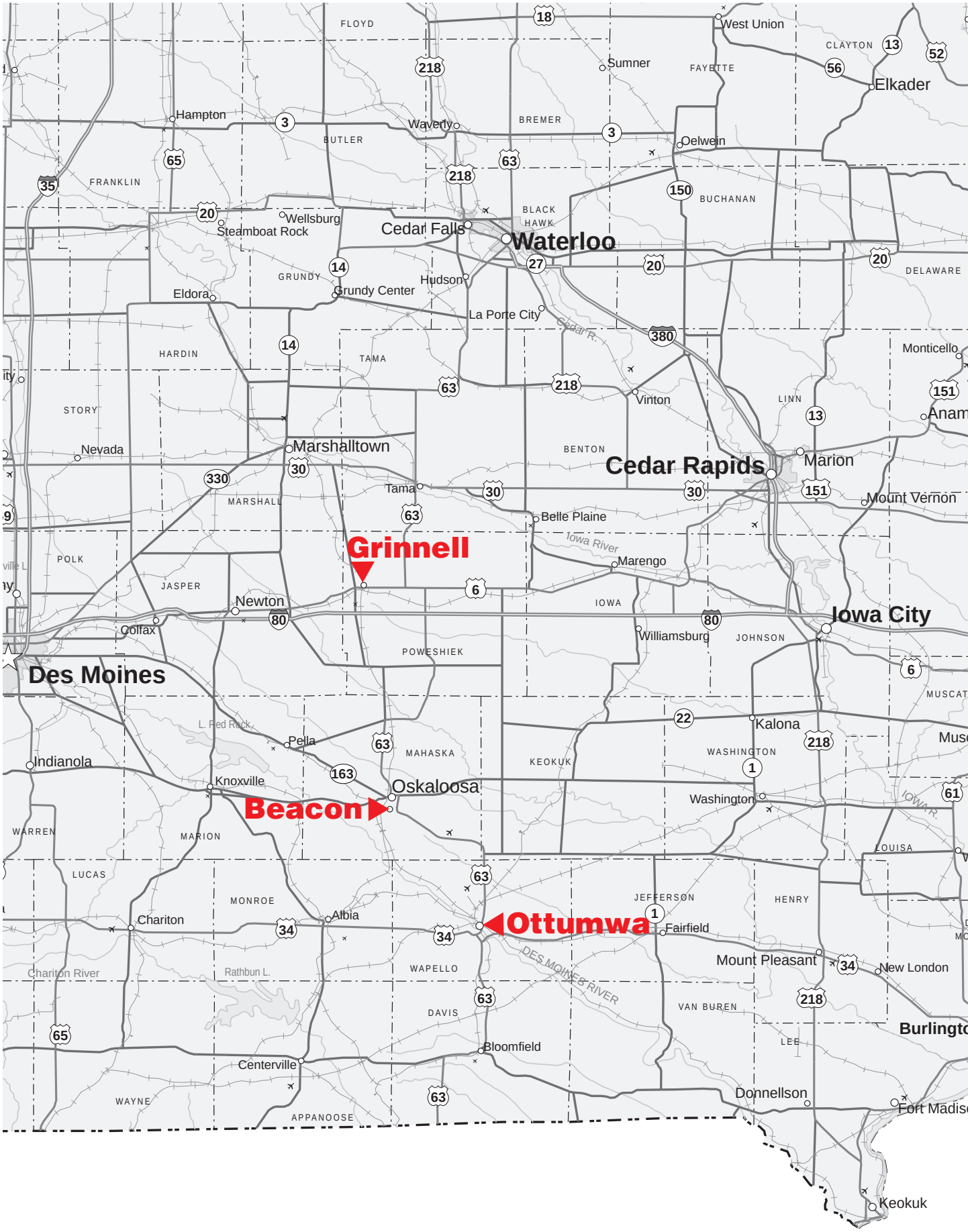
IOWA - Section 1 Eastern



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Below: This rare 19th-century quart can sold on 1st Dibs for $2,000.

Collectors find oyster cans a great delicacy

By William Flood

For generations, Chesapeake Bay watermen have made their living from local waters, harvesting oysters in the winter months to make their livelihoods. Their catch not only ended up at local restaurants, but it also supplied the packing industry that put the delicacy on tables countrywide. Collectors who appreciate that heritage have been snapping up oyster cans that have survived from the heydays of the oyster industry.

Humans have eaten oysters for centuries. There is evidence that Neanderthals consumed them, and in coastal areas worldwide, prehistoric shell mounds attest to how vital oysters were as a food source. As late as the 1800s, people living near salt water relied on the shellfish as a dietary staple.

During the late 1700s and early 1800s oysters went from being a staple to a delicacy reserved for the upper classes in the Western world. On top of that, since shellfish spoiled so quickly, and had to be served almost immediately, only the wealthy in coastal areas had access to them.

The formation of railroads in the 19th century, combined with the development of refrigerated cars and warehouses, allowed shellfish to be kept fresh longer and shipped greater distances. That made oysters available again to the masses, but they were treated as an affordable indulgence. As the rage took hold, oyster parlors began popping up in cities across the country.

Nowhere was more important to the oyster industry than the waters of the Chesapeake Bay. From the late 19th century until the middle of the 20th, thousands of local watermen harvested the bounty, while hundreds of packing houses in communities along the Bay and its tributaries processed the catch. Baltimore — Oyster City as it was known — became America's oyster canning capital. Its harbor became lined with wharves, oyster fleets, and packing houses.

In the beginning, oysters were harvested by tonging. From autumn through late winter, one or two oystermen worked in shallow water, typically aboard locally-built log canoes, pulling oysters from the beds by hand with long rake-like tongs. It was slow physically grueling work, in rough conditions, that paid very little. Yet, the methods lasted well into the 20th century.

In the 1850s, to help meet demand, the Maryland legislature allowed the use of dredges, which produced significantly higher yields than tonging. With dredging came the two-masted Chesapeake Bugeye, crewed by up to six people who would dredge while under sail. In the 1880s came the iconic single-masted Skipjacks that were even more efficient during the harvest.

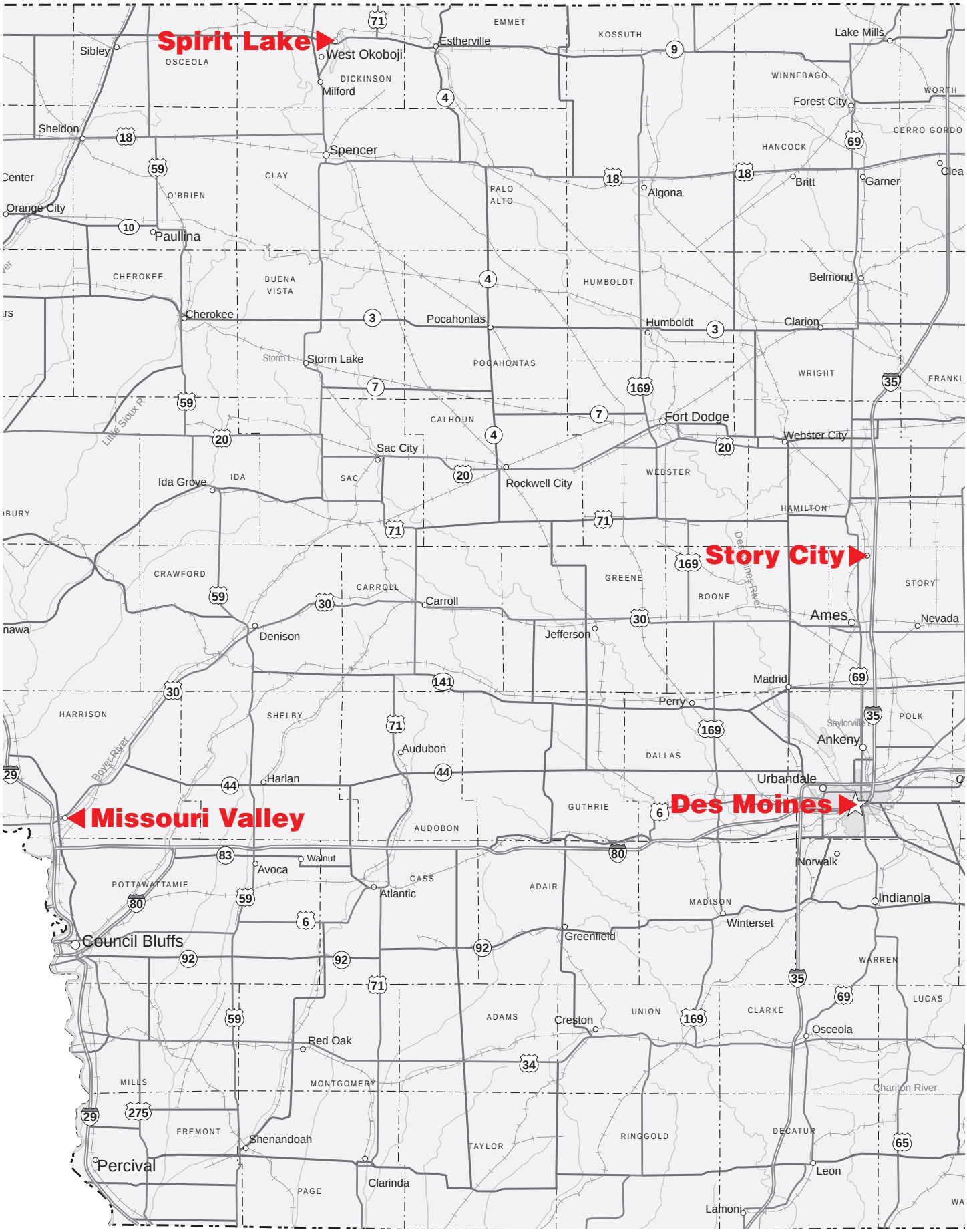
Meeting the demand for oysters put immense pressure on oyster beds and the people who worked them. Oyster catches grew from approximately 1.5 million bushels annually around 1850 to nearly 20 million by 1880. Poaching was rampant and oyster pirates raided vessels to steal the harvests. Oyster wars erupted. The overharvesting took its toll; nearly three-quarters of the Chesapeake's oyster beds were exhausted by 1920.

Yet, all that supply awaited an insatiable market and needed processing. Just in Crisfield Maryland in the 1880s, 16 packing houses employed over 600 workers - mostly immigrants and former slaves - who shucked, cleaned, and packed nearly a half-million bushels of oysters each year.

Early on, oysters were packed in cedar barrels laden with ice, eventually loaded on railcars, steamboats, or wagons. It was not the safest method for handling and shipping shellfish that quickly expired. In the early 1900s, a series of typhoid outbreaks attributed to spoiled oysters caused demand to plummet and ultimately led

See Oyster Cans Collection on page 49

IOWA - Section 2 Western



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Above: While Perrin, Virginia's Heywood Seafoods no longer exists, a couple of small seafood operations are still in the area.

Oyster Can's

From page 47

to an overhaul of the industry. The outbreaks helped Congress enact the Pure Food Laws of 1906, which addressed concerns like conditions at packing houses, shipping methods, safe storage, and proper labeling.

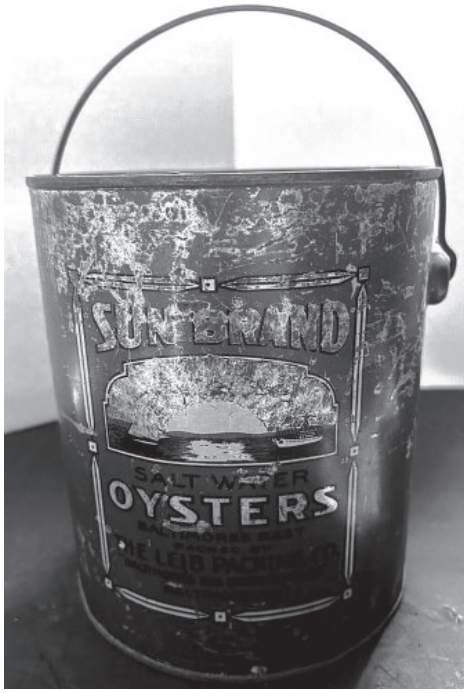
The situation prompted an industry-wide switch from bulk barrels to individual sealed oyster cans. To help reinstill consumer confidence, cans were stamped with the packers' certification number and imprinted with specifications like the size and count of the oysters within. Accompanying verbiage emphasized the freshness and purity of the product.

To help their product stand out in a crowded field, canneries soon added alluring graphics like sailors, boats, and aquatic scenery. Packers with sufficient resources had custom cans designed that edified their location and added catchy names like "Mermaid Oysters" to catch buyers' attention. Packers with fewer resources relied on stock can makers with choices that, while attractive, were the same from vendor to vendor.

By the late 20th century, the oystering industry began to decline drastically, Overharvesting, pollution, and disease almost brought Bay oysters to extinction. According to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, by the mid-1990s, harvesting had dropped to less than 100,000 bushels annually; by 2001, oyster beds in the Chesapeake had all but collapsed.

The demise of the Bay's oyster industry gave rise to interest in its once-thriving culture. Relics of that culture became sought-after, particularly oyster cans, which were tangible records of the hundreds of packing houses lost to time and change.

When collecting oyster cans first ignited in the 1980s and 90s, they were often "barn finds." The path for most cans was, naturally, to get discarded after being opened. It's amazing that so many survived. Those that stuck around were usually relegated to garages and basements, filled with old nails and screws. Nobody paid much attention to them



Above: The handle on this 1-gallon can dates it to around 1920-1930.

before the collecting bug bit.

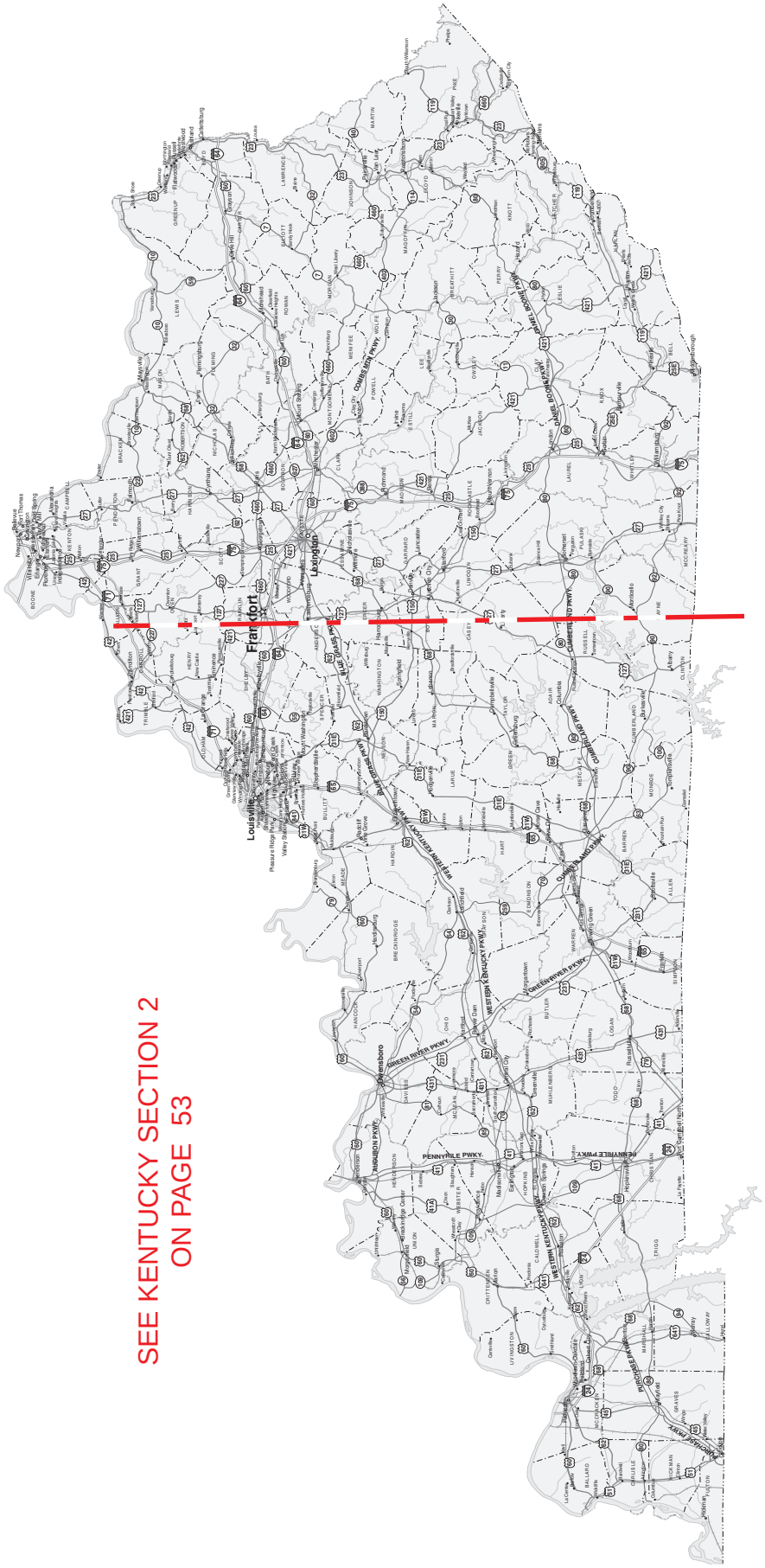
For collectors, rarity and condition are the biggest drivers of value. Stock cans and more recent ones can still be had for around $20-$30. However, those custom-commissioned ones and truly rare survivors can easily sell in the hundreds of dollars. There are numerous instances of prices reaching into the thousands, particularly for examples without rust or dents.

Many of the existing cans are now 100+ years old, although age is not necessarily a big determinant of value. The oldest (called tins) date to the 1800s. They are often rectangular and stamped rather than embellished with imagery. Round oyster cans came later and are found in pint, quart, and gallon sizes. Gallon cans with handles were made in the 1920s-1930s. The most coveted cans hail from approximately 1920 to 1950 when color tin lithography was popular and the graphic arts work emblazoned the tin. After the 1950s, less impressive but cheaper paper labeling became more common.

Prices surged during and after the Covid pandemic. Today, good examples often have price tags exceeding $100.

See Oyster Cans Collection on page 52

KENTUCKY - 2 SECTIONS; PAGES 50-54



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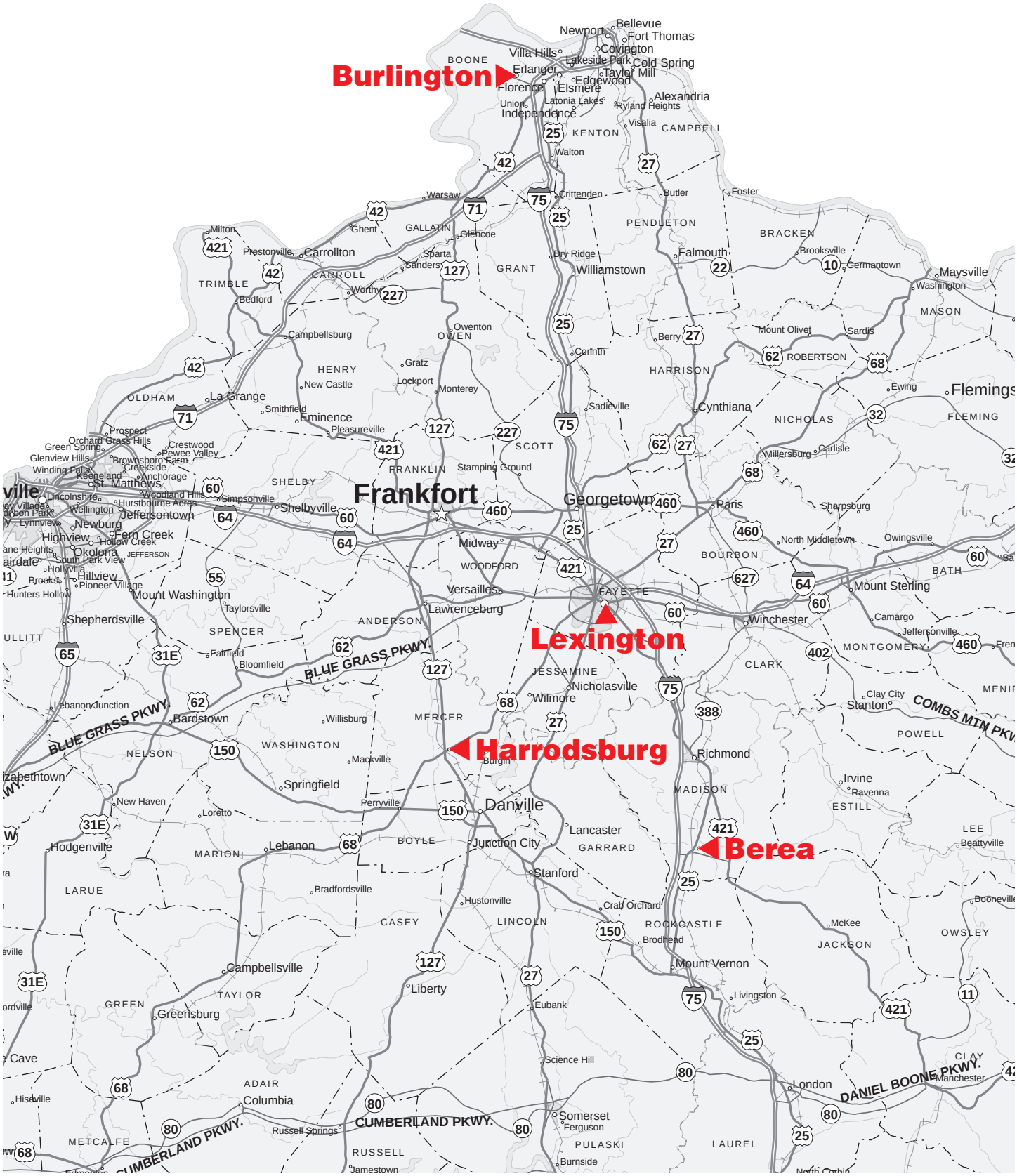
KENTUCKY - Section 1 Eastern



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Oyster Can's

FROM PAGE 49

The owner of Heart of Dorchester Antiques in Cambridge, Md., said wholesale and auction prices for good cans often eclipse $100. Worth noting, the popularity of authentic oyster cans has spawned makers of reproductions.

Regional events like the Eastern Waterfowl Festival held each November, are known for hosting oyster can dealers.

You can see one of the country's largest collections of antique oyster cans at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels, Md. There you can also learn about the Bay's oystering heritage and efforts by local entities - including watermen - to re-establish the oyster ecosystem.

As the oystering industry rebounds, the market for related collectibles seems to grow with it. Harkening back to their roots, some modern packing houses are even issuing limited-edition cans that may be worth holding onto. That bodes well for original vintage cans that should continue to harvest good value.

Above: Several hundred antique and vintage oyster cans are on display at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels, Maryland.

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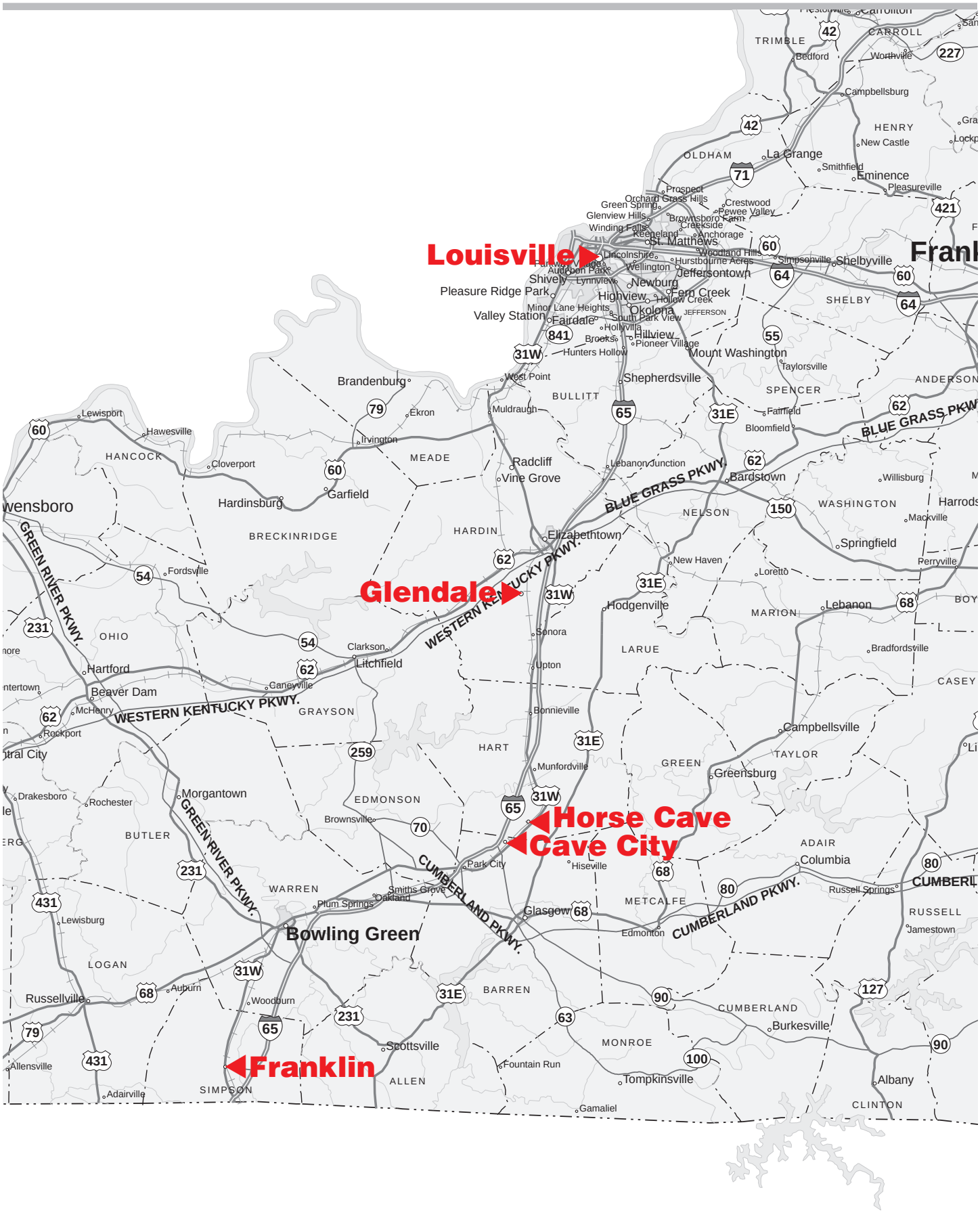
KENTUCKY - Section 2 Western



KENTUCKY - Section 2

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The treat is finding the collectible without the tricky price tag

By Barbara Miller Beem

For some, it's a time of reflection, the Eve of All Saints' Day. Girl Scouts mark the day as the birthday of their founder, Juliette Low. And then there are those seeking to promote the last day in October as "National Knock Knock Joke Day." But one look around leaves little doubt that Halloween, October 31 on the calendar, is the second biggest holiday in America.

From over-the-top lawn decorations (oversized inflatable Snoopys, Frankensteins, and purple spiders) to costumed trick-or-treaters and party goers of all ages, Halloween is a multi-billion dollar industry, with hundreds of millions of dollars spent on candy alone.

It wasn't always like this. Over the years, multiple cultures have commemorated those who went before them during the last days of October. Two thousand years ago, the Celts celebrated a harvest-time festival called Samhain, donning costumes and lighting bonfires to ward off ghosts. The early Romans honored the dead with an end-of-October celebration of a holiday called Feralia. And in the eighth century, Pope Gregory III designated November 1 as All Saints' Day, thereby making the night before All Hallows' Eve. And as European settlers came to America, they brought with them their holidays.

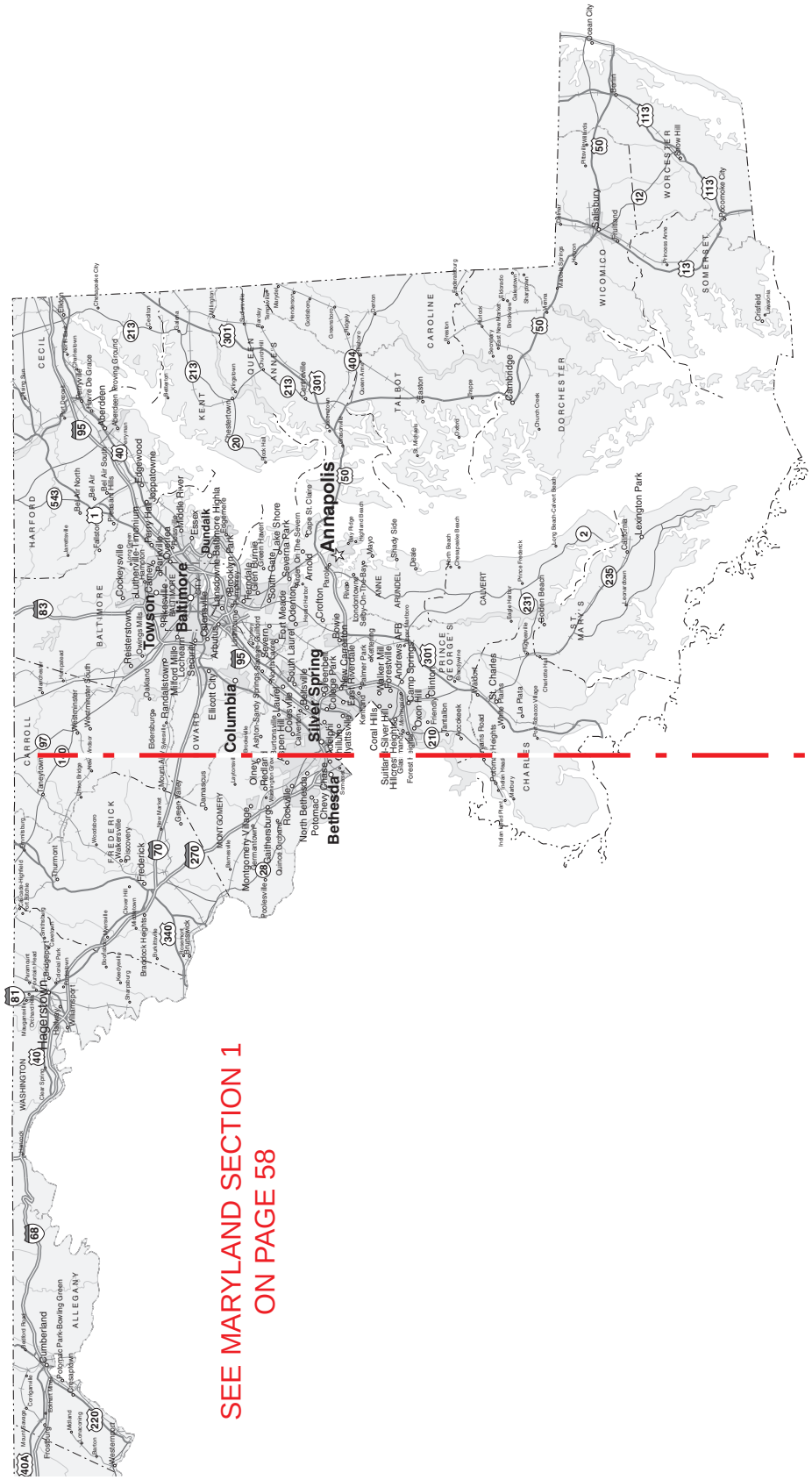
In the early days of the 20th century, typical Halloween celebrations included parlor games, many of which centered around fortunetelling and courtship. As American society shifted after World War II, Halloween increasingly became a time marked with a flurry of family-friendly activities, including carving pumpkins, trick-or-treating, and community parties. Homemade costumes, generic in nature, included witches and gypsies;

See Halloween on page 59

Above: Not sure how many crows this figure could scare off. But he sits in front of an array of interesting Halloween postcards, which, compared to other holiday greetings, can be pricey.

Left: It looks as though a mid-century hostess bought extra napkins for her Halloween party. Unopened napkins are an affordable way to begin a collection.

MARYLAND - 2 SECTIONS; PAGES 57-63



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SEE MARYLAND SECTION 2 ON PAGE 60

MARYLAND - Section 1

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Halloween

From page 56

little more than a white bed sheet was all that was needed to create a ghost or mummy disguise.

Gradually, Halloween became increasingly commercialized, as candy was manufactured, packaged, and marketed specifically for trick-or-treaters. Inspired by movies and television shows, costumes became more elaborate, as simple costumes made from materials found at home were replaced by purchased outfits in the likeness of favorite licensed characters.

Today, Halloween merchandise is in stores well before October 31. And one can only wonder if Skelly, a 12-foot poseable skeleton that has leapt off the shelves of big box stores, will be the collectible of the 2070s and beyond.

Vintage Halloween collectibles

"In the antique holiday field, Halloween is the hardest to find," according to Laura Turner, a Halloween enthusiast and collector. Unlike Christmas decorations, which are traditional in nature and handed down from one generation to another, Halloween items are generally disposable and made for one-time use, she pointed out. As proprietor of the Frizellburg Antique Store, she displays some favorites from her personal collection, including a Steiff black cat, three dolls (two witches and an early pumpkinhead store display), and a Dennison tissue paper scarecrow. To the dismay of customers, she added ruefully, each one bears the label "not for sale."

On the other hand, among early items she does offer for sale are Halloween postcards, which provide clues as to how the holiday was once celebrated. However, they are "among the most expensive of holiday postcards," pricier than many Christmas postcards and "clearly surpassing" those associated with Easter. Similarly, homemade costumes from the 1920s are "very sought after" and, at the same time, "really hard to find." Collectors

See Halloween on page 63

Above: Mid-century Halloween decorations were sassy, not ghoulish.

MARYLAND - Section 2

MARYLAND - Section 2

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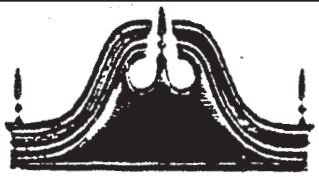
SEE DISPLAY AD ON PAGE 62



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240-558-3489. KarleesDeliAndMarket.com
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MARYLAND - Section 2

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MARYLAND - Section 2

Halloween

From Page 59

generally display them rather than wear them, she added.

But all is (literally) not lost, as many of the seemingly most fragile of mid-century Halloween collectibles have survived. Thanks to the preponderance of holiday merchandise made in the 1950s and beyond, these mid-century items are relatively easy (and less expensive) to collect. All of which is good news for nostalgic baby boomers who want to revisit the days of their childhood, as well as for those who merely appreciate a simpler celebration of Halloween, one not ghoulish but, in Turner's words, "all about fun."

Beginning collectors might consider starting with party-related items. Turner said that party goods, including napkins and noisemakers in their original packaging, can be

See Halloween on page 65

Above: Not sure how many crows this figure could scare off. But he sits in front of an array of interesting Halloween postcards, which, compared to other holiday greetings, can be pricey.

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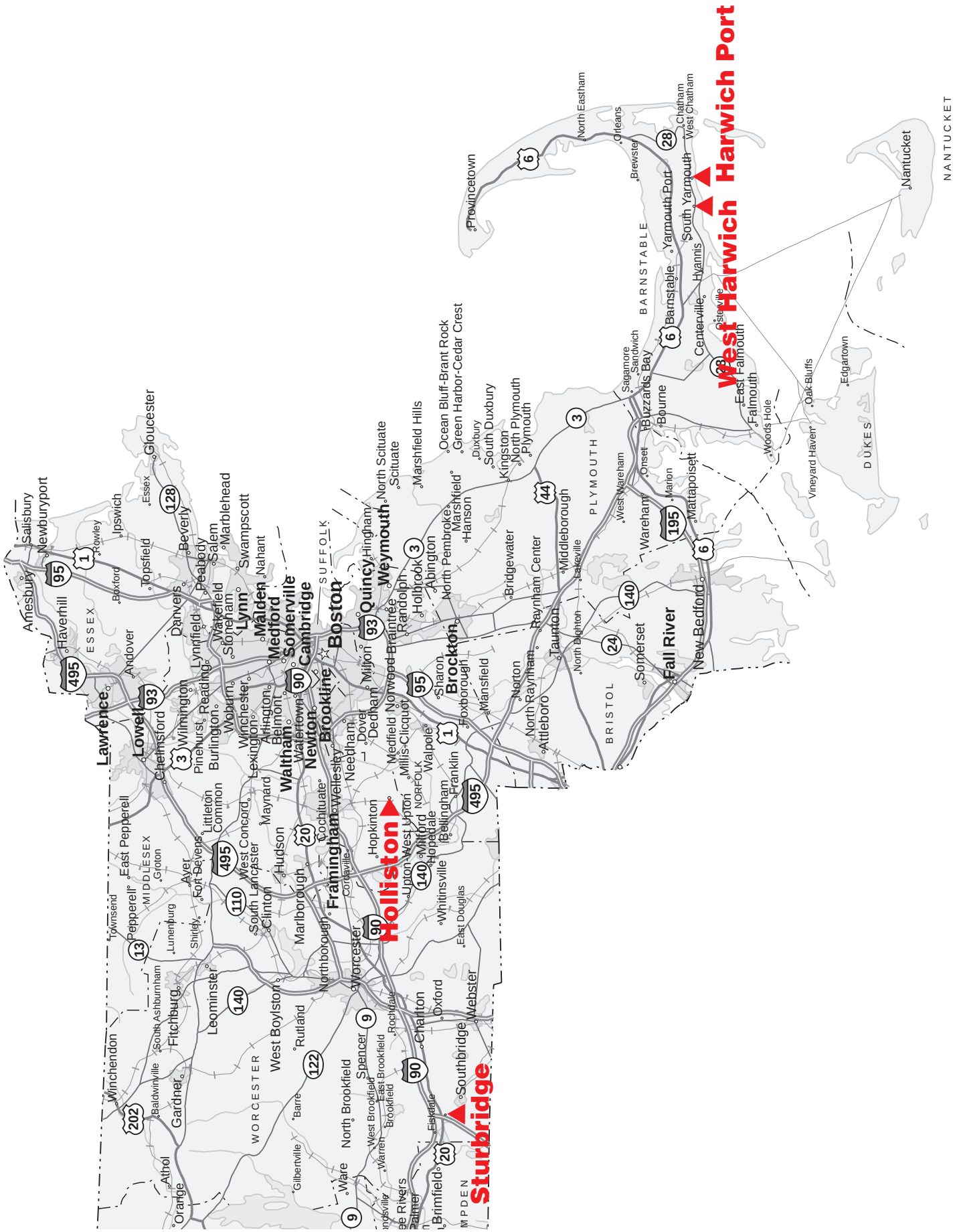

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Halloween

From page 63

purchased for less than $25. Similarly, unopened packages of crepe paper tablecloths and streamers are affordable, as are paper Hallmark centerpieces, never used and once again for sale, albeit for more than their original price of $1.50. With a somewhat larger budget, ceramic luncheon sets and Halloween-themed vintage tablecloths can be procured.

Perhaps there is no material more closely associated with mid-century America than plastic. And black and orange plastic candy containers, depicting witches and pumpkinheads, are desirable (note: beware of reproductions). Plastic flashlights and handled trick-or-treat pumpkins that once held pennies, candy, and gum are also fun reminders of another time.

Old costumes transforming trick-or-treaters into witches and black cats, ghosts and scarecrows, and pumpkins and bats have survived the years, often with plastic face masks. And don't overlook Pez dispensers; look for ghosts, witches, and pumpkins, as well as a variety of those that depict monster heads.

And then there's paper, from paper pulp lanterns, which were not made to last a half century (but have), to jointed paper decorations, with seemingly fragile "honeycomb" parts. Even unused treat bags can still be found by diligent collectors.

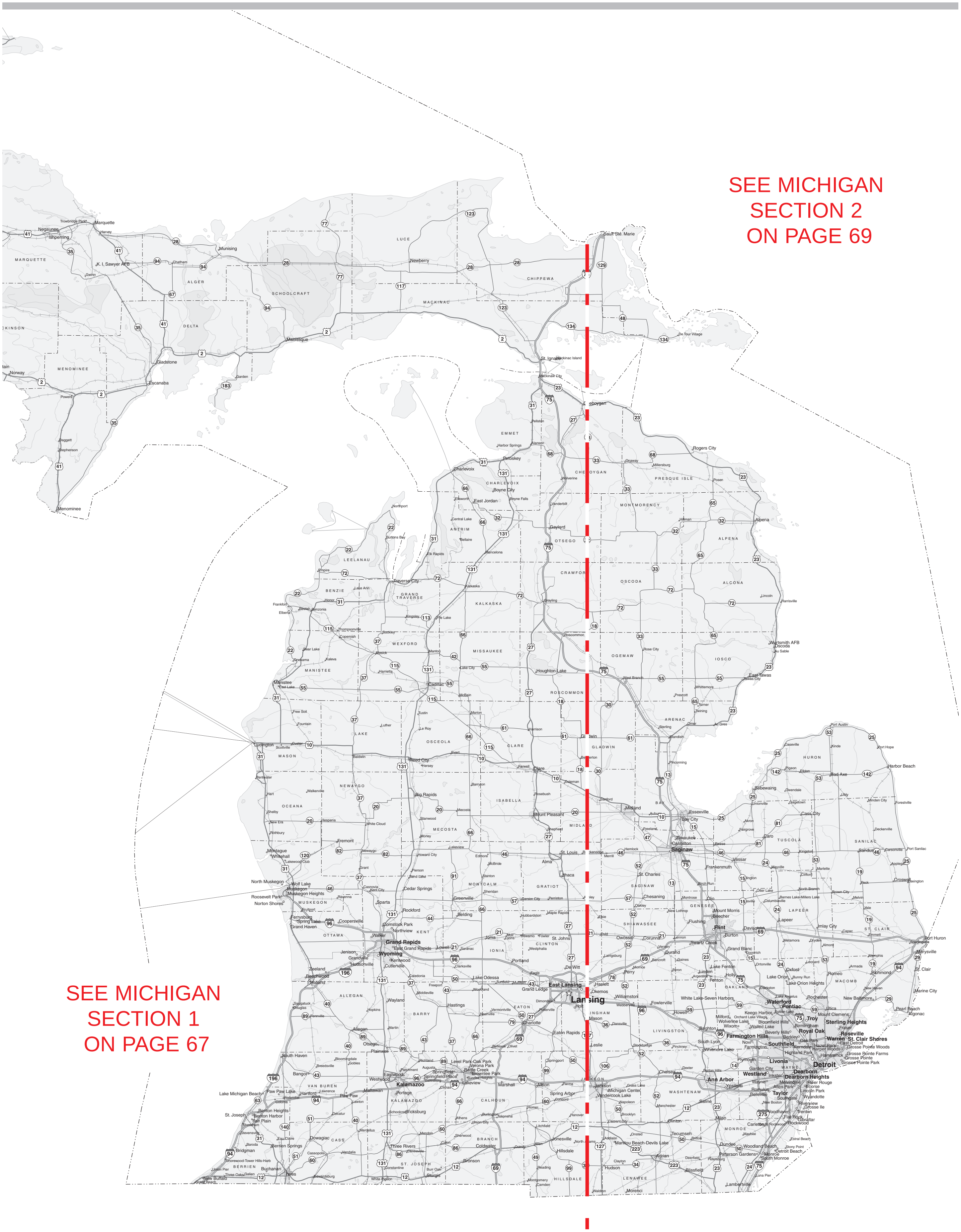
Think outside the box and assemble a collection of Halloween-themed magazine covers. Norman Rockwell produced a number of iconic "Saturday Evening Post" illustrations in celebration of the holiday. But don't overlook other magazines, including "Calling All Girls," "McCall's" (with the paper doll, Betsy McCall), and even "Mad" magazine.

Collectors have their choice of a variety of Halloween-themed board games, including a Whitman fortunetelling game dating from 1934 to a series of games from the 1950s and beyond, ones that were inspired by Casper the Friendly Ghost. Dolls dressed for the holiday were offered by Madame Alexander, and, in 1997, the first of an annual series of Halloween Barbie dolls was introduced. Finally, don't overlook the possibility of collecting all things related to the Great Pumpkin. Introduced by Charles Schulz in his Peanuts comic strip dated October 26, 1959, it inspired the 1966 animated television special "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown," as well as a bevy of licensed items.

Turner concluded that many collectors display their favorite Halloween-themed collectibles year-round, and indeed, her shop, formerly a general store in rural northern Maryland, has been a sea of orange and black for the past several weeks. But with the flip of the calendar page, it's time to "think Christmas": The Frizellburg Antique Store's annual Christmas Open House, set for November 18 and 19, is just around the corner.

Above: Bobbing for apples was a party time favorite among eligible young people looking for romance, as seen on this vintage Halloween postcard. Images courtesy of Ruby McKerrow

MICHIGAN - 2 SECTIONS; PAGES 66-70



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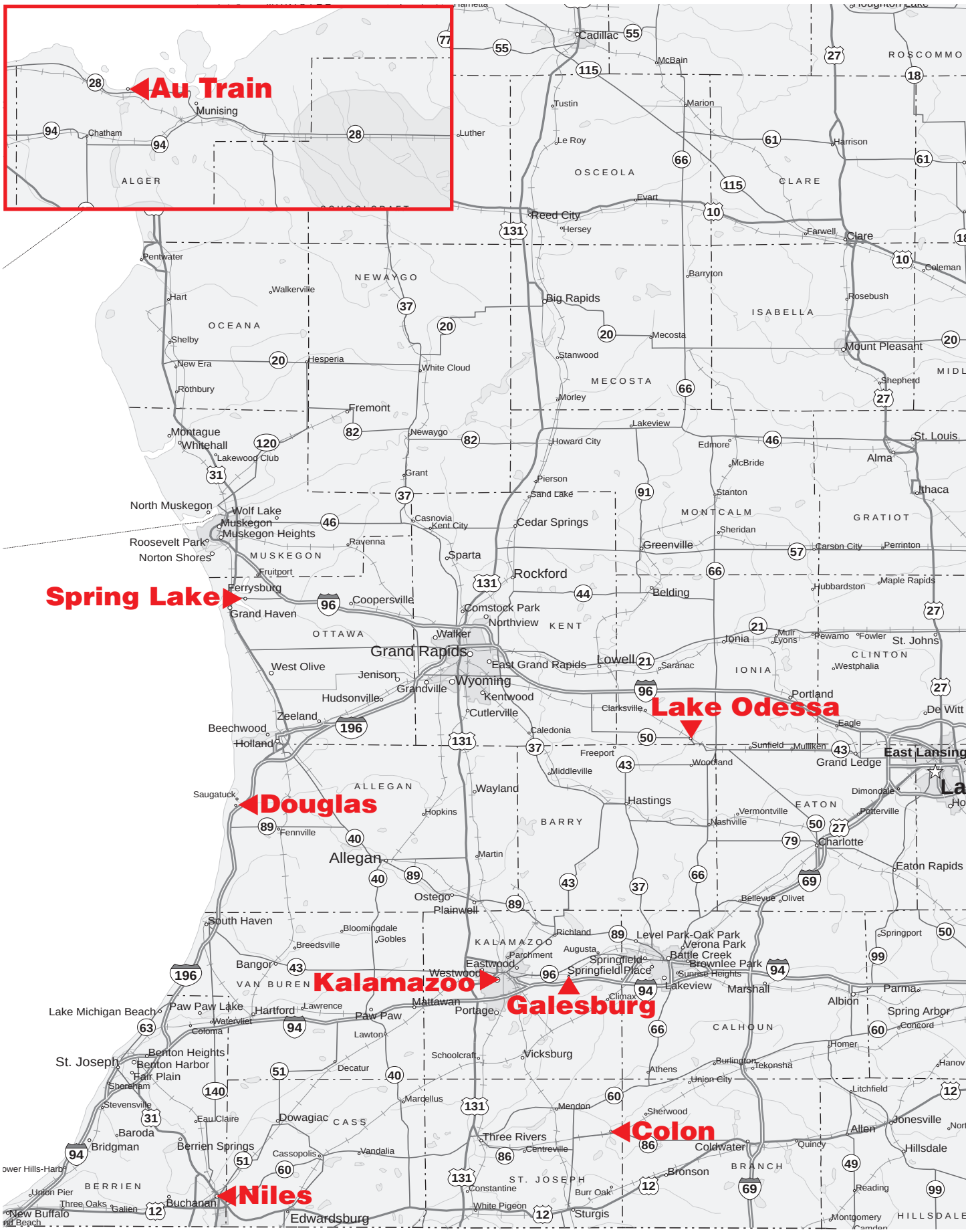
SEE MICHIGAN SECTION 1 ON PAGE 67

MICHIGAN - Section 1 Western/ Upper Peninsula



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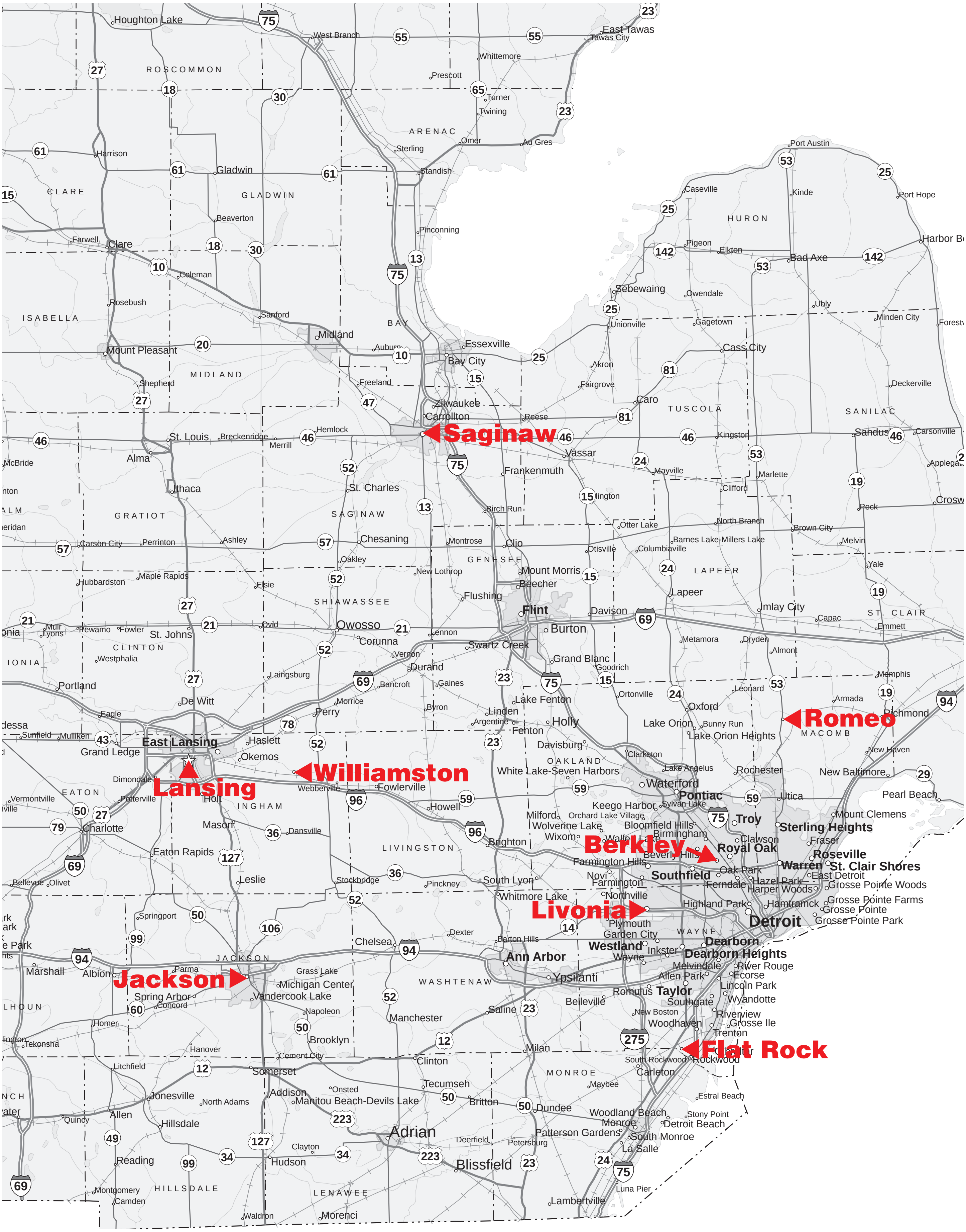

MICHIGAN - Section 2

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Hey, Barbie!

The Oscars might have snubbed Barbie, but collectors of the fashion doll who can only wear high heels are "thinking pink" with renewed enthusiasm. In addition to vintage dolls and outfits, Barbie fans have collected a multitude of Barbie-related items produced over the years, including Christmas ornaments, tableware, and linens, as well as jewelry, books, and lunchboxes. And with last year's release of the full-length feature film, "Barbie," there are suddenly a host of newly minted items that can be purchased and put away for the next generation. Think pink and think ahead!

***AntiqueWeek* Travel Guide to Antique Shops & Malls**
is a high quality book using detailed maps

Beer Saved London

In the 1850s a cholera outbreak in London claimed over 10,000 lives. The city's completely inadequate sanitation was responsible for the spread. An unlikely hero - beer - helped keep the outbreak from getting worse. There was enough alcohol in beer to kill the cholera bacteria. Because 19th-century workers were often heavy drinkers, they tended to drink beer rather than contaminated water.

Whiskey Won the West

Whiskey and bourbon might be associated with states like Tennessee and Kentucky, but the landscape was a bit different in the American West during the 19th century. In addition to liquor transported from the East, well over 150 distilleries in states like California, Colorado, Nevada, and Texas helped supply all those Wild West saloons.

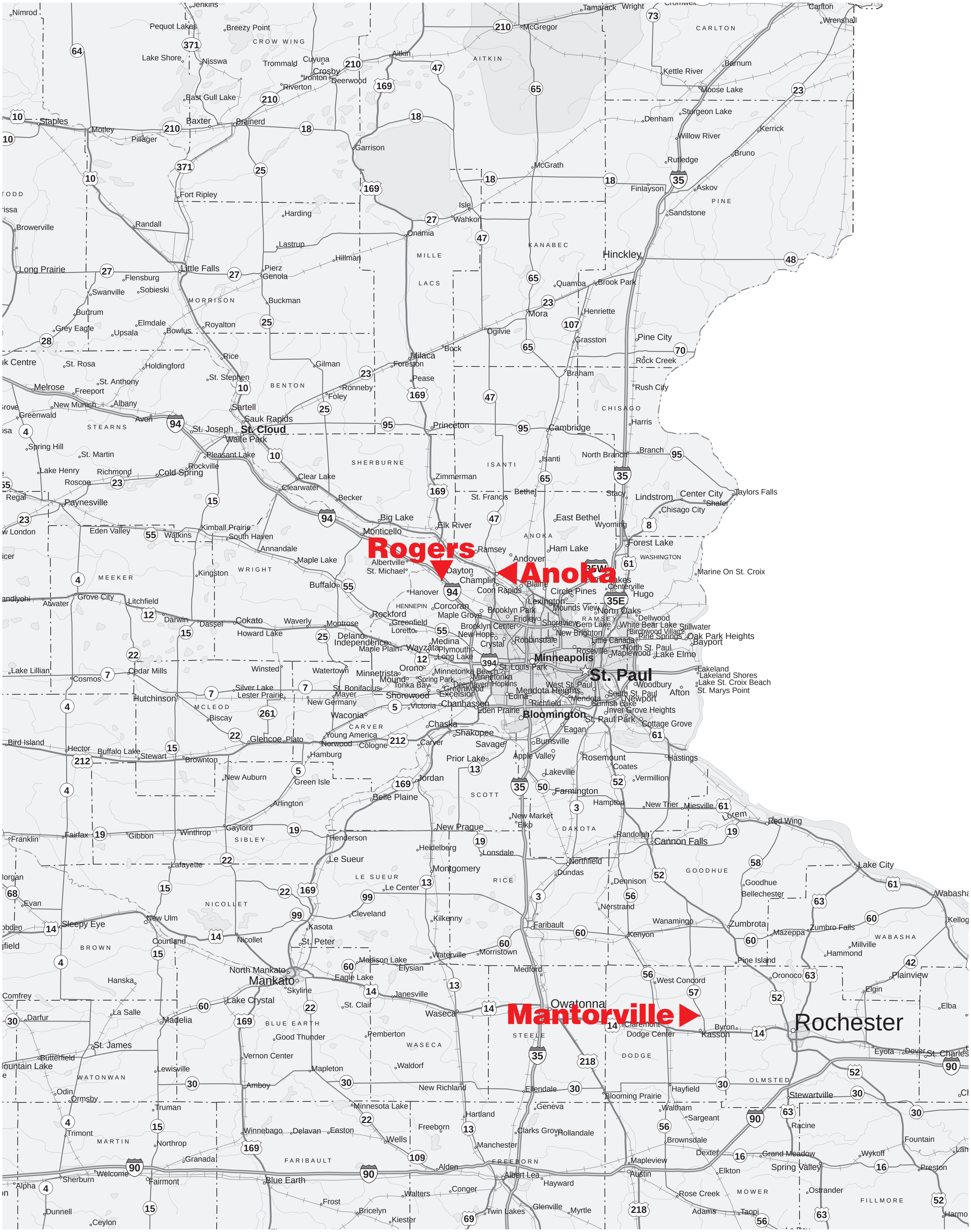
Glass Houses

In the 1800s, the availability of natural gas and other raw materials needed for glassmaking spawned a boom in glass production across Eastern Ohio, the panhandle of West Virginia, and Western Pennsylvania. By the beginning of the 20th century, the area was home to over 150 glass companies. Today, just a few household names are all that remain; they include Anchor Hocking, Blenko, Corning, and Libby.

Housing a Blimp

Built in 1917, the hangar for the Goodyear blimp is one of the oldest airbases in the world. It measures four football fields long and at its peak is nearly half as tall as the Washington Monument. The space inside is so vast it generates its own microclimate and can actually rain inside.

MINNESOTA - 1 Section



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Above: Ino Schaller papier-mâché cat on jack-o-lantern candy container. This candy container is new and is valued at $196.

AntiqueWeek Guide to Antique Shops & Malls has OVER 50,000 guaranteed readership!

Ino Schaller Halloween products are a delight

BY LARRY LEMASTERS

Ino Schaller, of Germany, has been making papier-mâché candy containers since 1894. Carl Schaller, founder of Ino Schaller, laid the foundation stone for his family-owned papier-mâché company, originally called "Schaller." The company focused on making one product and making it right—papier-mâché figurines that could be filled with candy. Almost overnight Schaller's candy containers proved highly successful, now, almost 130 years later, Ino Schaller still produces candy containers, although some of them are now made of plastic.

Schaller designed and produced all of the templates for his candy containers. Then his family, including his youngest children, helped hand paint and decorate the containers in bright, eye-catching colors. In the early 1940s, Carl's son, Ino took over the family business, renaming the company Ino Schaller after himself.

Following World War II, with Germany in shambles, Ino Schaller looked to the future of candy container production. By the early 1950s, the company had discontinued using papier-mâché to manufacture candy containers. Plastic was the wave of the future in the 1950s, and Ino Schaller jumped on the plastic bandwagon and began casting candy container figurines using plastic injection.

For roughly 40 years, Ino and his son Dieter Schaller produced plastic candy figurines. Then, in the 1980s, Thomas Schaller rediscovered the old papier-mâché molds that had lingered, stored and forgotten. The beautiful old molds along with the knowledge of how to produce papier-mâché figurines quickly resurfaced in the Schaller factory.

Dieter and his son, Thomas Schaller, became fascinated by the history of papier-mâché in their family's company, and they once again started producing brightly colored papier-mâché

See Halloween Page 75

Above: Ino Schaller green jack-o-lantern candy container. This papier-mâché pumpkin was created in 2022, and it is valued at $114.

Above: Ino Schaller papier-mâché "witch" candy container. This container is 5 ½ inches tall, made in Germany, and valued at $90.

MISSOURI - 2 SECTIONS; PAGES 73-77

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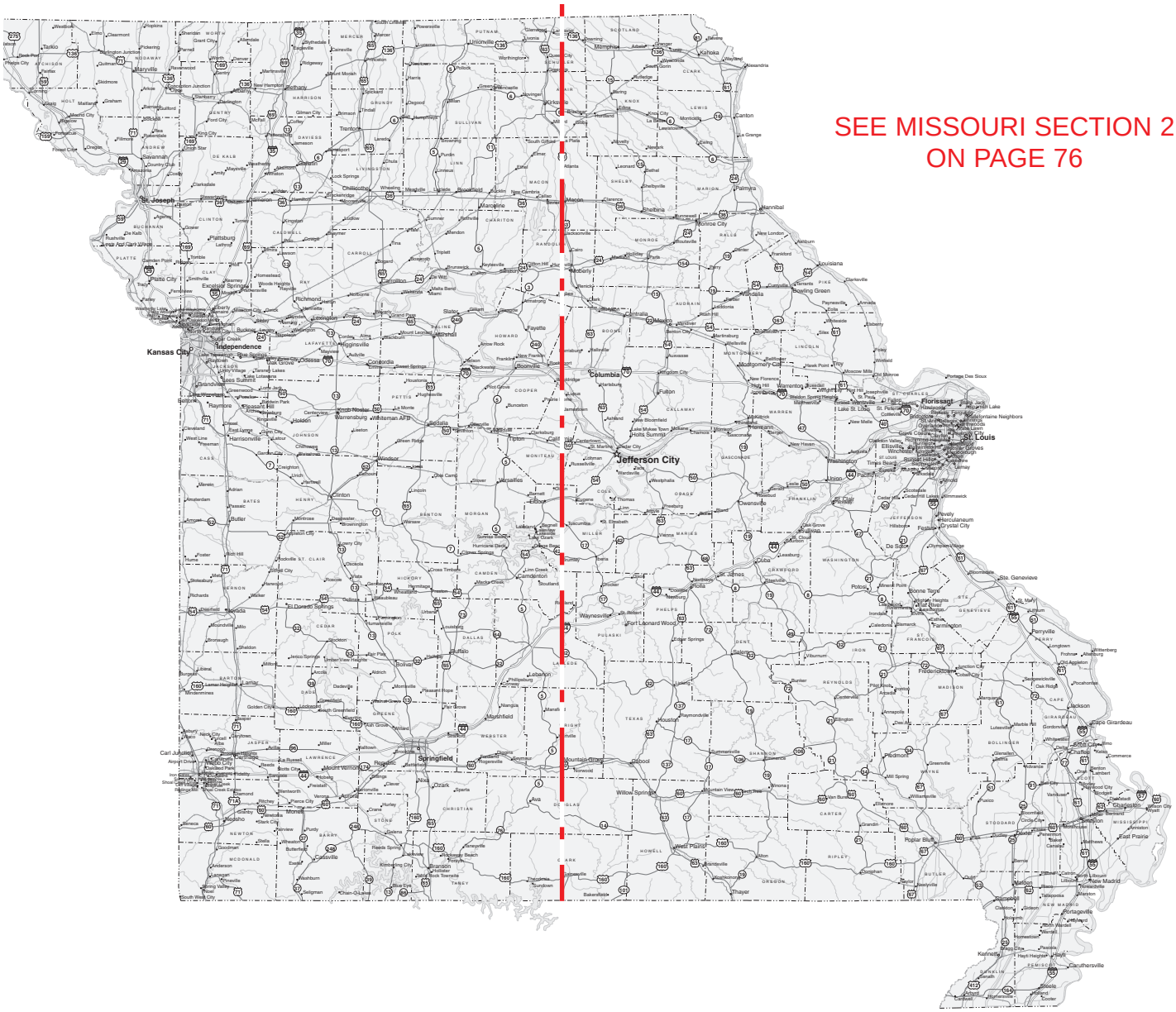
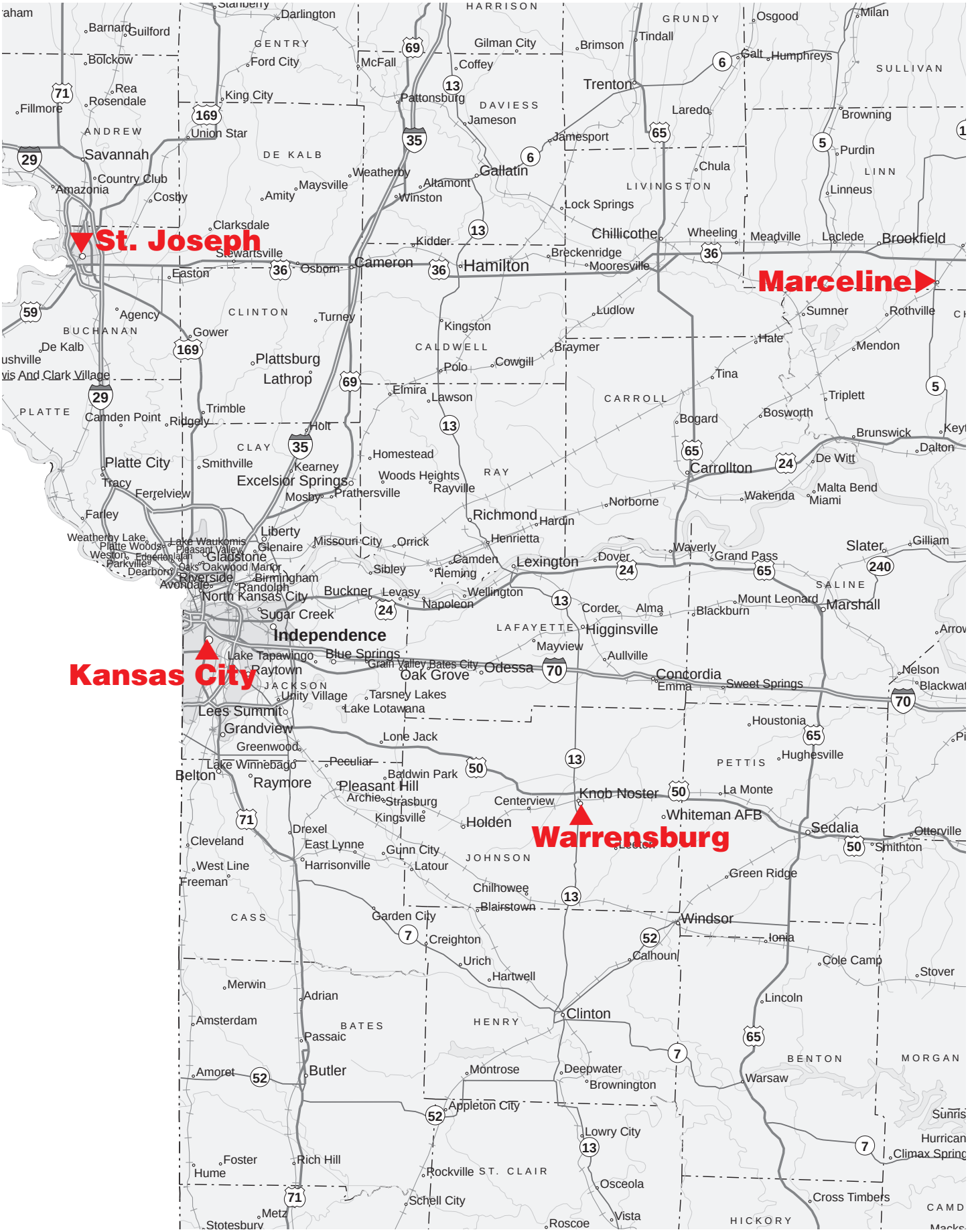
ON PAGE 74

SEE MISSOURI SECTION 2
ON PAGE 76



MISSOURI - Section 1 Western



MISSOURI - Section 1

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Above: New, Ino Schaller "Devil" papier-mâché candy container that is valued at $129.

Halloween

FROM PAGE 72

candy figurines.

The new papier-mâché figurines, especially Halloween figurines, are more popular now than they were 50 years ago. Collectors, both here and in Europe, love the vintage papier-mâché containers best; however, the newer Ino Schaller papier-mâché candy containers are also hot collectibles since even new papier-mâché containers carry an air of nostalgia with them. New containers are stamped, "This limited production 'Papier-mâché' is hand-made in the original antique mold in Germany by INO SCHALLER."

Ino Schaller is one of the few papier-mâché manufacturers to still be in business. The company has existed though four generations of family employees, and as long as new Schallers are born, there is no end in sight. The company is headquartered in Meilschnitz, Bavaria, near Neustadt where all production takes place. In an attempt to keep the entire production local, Ino Schaller purchases raw materials from local businesses throughout the region. The company proudly claims, "Our products are 100 percent 'Made in Germany.'"

Whether papier-mâché or plastic, the secret of the company's beautiful candy container figurines is the attention to detail that each employee gives. This high quality detailing allows Ino Schaller to sell its figurines around the world.

While the company's Christmas containers, such as Santa Claus, are very popular with collectors, Ino Schaller's bestselling line of papier-mâché and plastic candy containers has always been its Halloween line. The company offers a full range of pumpkins, jack o lanterns, ghosts, spirits, spooks, devils, skulls, owls, black cats, and iconic Halloween witches. While all Ino Schaller's Halloween Papier-mâché containers are collectible, the most popular Halloween items produced by the company are its papier-mâché witches and jack-o-lanterns.

Ino Schaller still uses the company's original papier-mâché recipe, which originated in the late 1800s, to produce its entire line of papier-mâché candy containers. The company began by using a mixture of flour and glue in its production process, but in the 1920s, the process was greatly refined.

The company's papier-mâché recipe is a liquid mass of paper and glue mixed with other ingredients. This mass is cast into hand-made, two-part molds. Excess water escapes from the paper mass into the porous molds. After sitting for 24 hours, the slightly dried casting is carefully taken from the mold. Then the still-wet casting is slowly dried in a room with a controlled temperature. After approximately four days, the dried casting is hand-painted and decorated with artistic, seasonal designs such as black cats, hazy moons, and witch's broomsticks. Often glitter, glass beads, and faux fur provides eye-catching special details. In this manner, every Ino Schaller papier-mâché candy container is a one-of-a-kind, hand-made, and signed work of art. Today, the artist signs every limited edition papier-mâché container produced.

After the eerie Halloween containers are finished, they are the perfect receptacle for candy, sweets, and other treats. And as all collectors know, it is much better to offer a treat on Halloween than to receive a trick.

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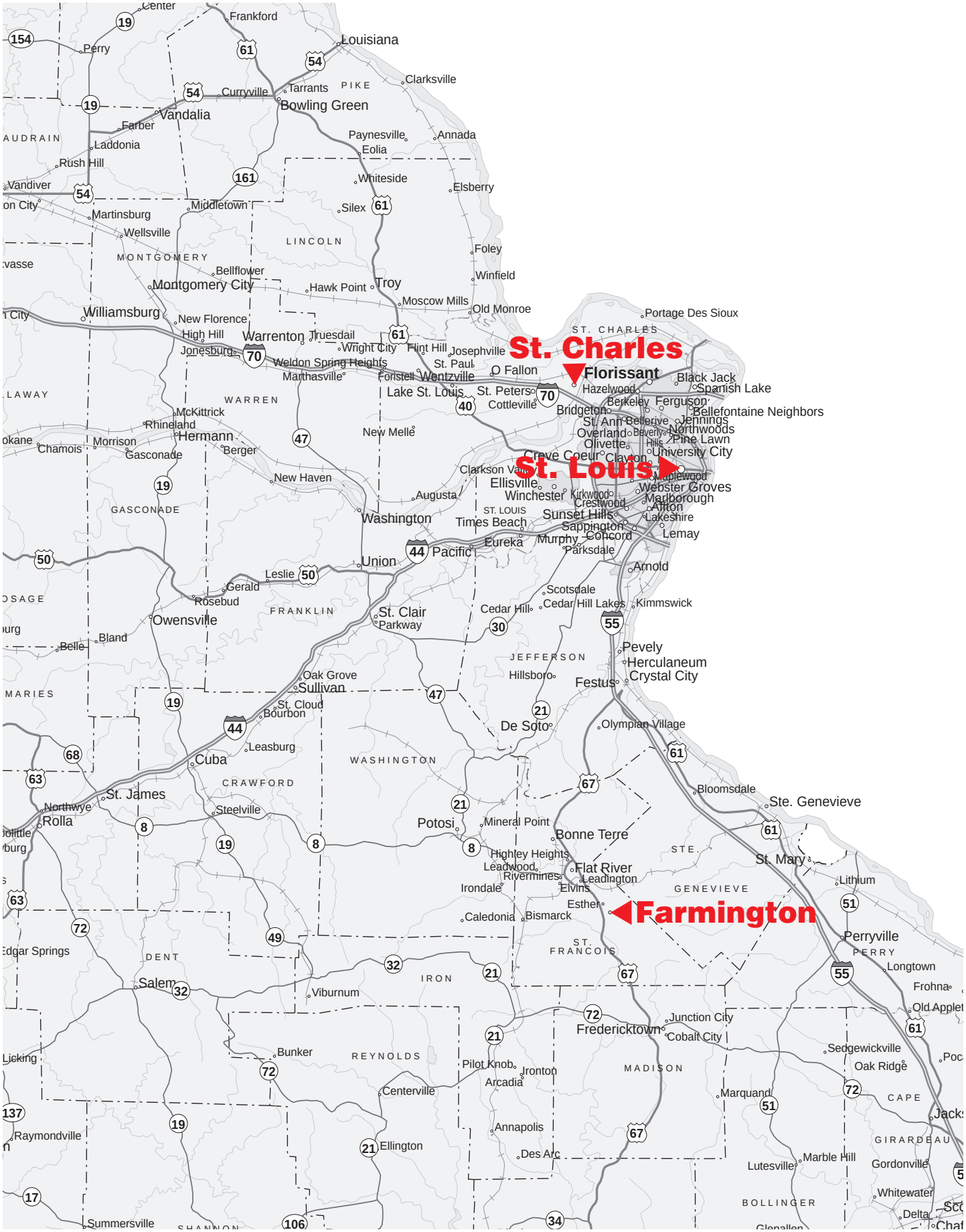
MISSOURI - Section 2 Eastern



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SEE DISPLAY AD ON THIS PAGE

Love of Soap

The longest-running television show isn't a news program or even a comedy. It's a soap opera. General Hospital has been on the air since April 1963 - a total of 60 years! Two other soap operas vie for second place at 57 years: Guiding Light and Days of Our Lives.

Cartoon Crusader

The first animated cartoon broadcast on television is likely familiar only to those older than 50. Baby Boomers might recall the series Crusader Rabbit which aired in 1950 as the first cartoon produced specifically for television. It was created by Jay Ward, the animator behind another 1950s show, Rocky and Bullwinkle

Honey, I Shrunk the Radio

In the 1950s, Emerson, Philco, and RCA all initially declined the opportunity to make small radios using then-new transistor technology. It was Texas Instruments that took the lead, developing the first pocket transistor radio, the Regency TR-1 in 1954.

Mail Order Marvels

Amazon may be today's e-commerce powerhouse, but it's just the newest player in an industry that spans nearly two centuries. Before e-commerce, ordering merchandise remotely was known as "mail order," and companies like JC Penny, Montgomery Ward, and Sears led the way. For 100 years, school-age kids turned to the catalogs and magazine advertisements from the Johnson Smith Company for novelties like miniature spy cameras, sea monkeys, and X-ray glasses.

No Longer Optional

Given today's sophisticated cars, it's hard to imagine the days when the various creature comforts in a vehicle were optional. Heaters didn't become standard equipment until the 1960s; it was the same for radios. It took another 20 years for air conditioning to become standard.

From the Launchpad

If you are old enough, you probably recall orange-flavored Tang touted as the drink of NASA astronauts. While Tang wasn't developed by NASA, there are plenty of consumer items that did originate in the space program. Among them are: memory foam, the cordless motor that eventually powered the Dustbuster™, UV-blocking sunglasses, and freeze-dried ice cream.

Life's a Beach

Despite the allure of the shore, vacationing at the beach wasn't always popular. Before the 18th century, the seaside was considered somewhat unhealthy, a place where rough seafaring people like fishermen and sailors dwelled. Eventually, the seashore became a popular haven for escaping the grime of the city. At first, only wealthy families could afford the journey. Eventually, mass transit made seaside trips possible for the masses.

Just Rolling Around

In-line skates may seem like a phenomenon that emerged in the 1990s. In reality, experiments with them go as far back as the late 1700s. One of the earliest renditions was developed to allow opera actors to simulate skating on ice.

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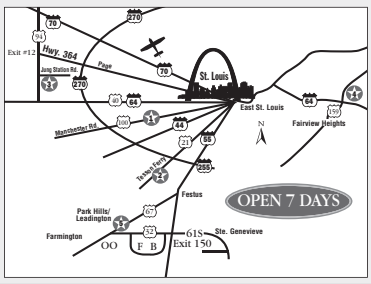

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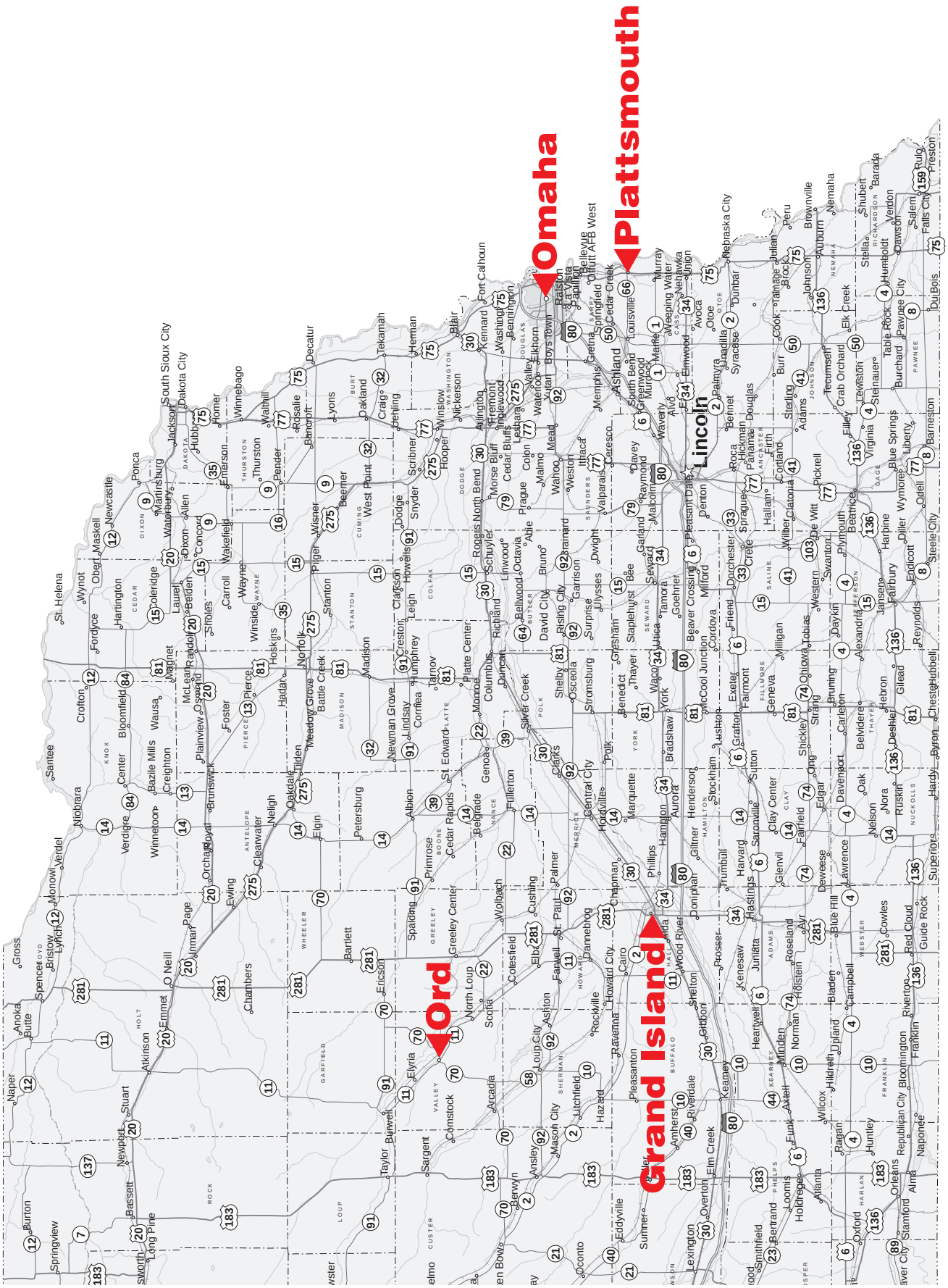
NEBRASKA - 1 SECTION



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Above: An unusually small brass reel from the mid to late 1800s that would have been clamped to a fishing rod. Reels of this size and type can sell from $150 and up, even if the maker is unknown.

Above: Author Steve Woit, left, shows antique fishing photos to bamboo rodmaker Hoagy Carmichael Jr. at the reel collectors' convention.

Collectors, young and old, gather for fun fishing reel convention

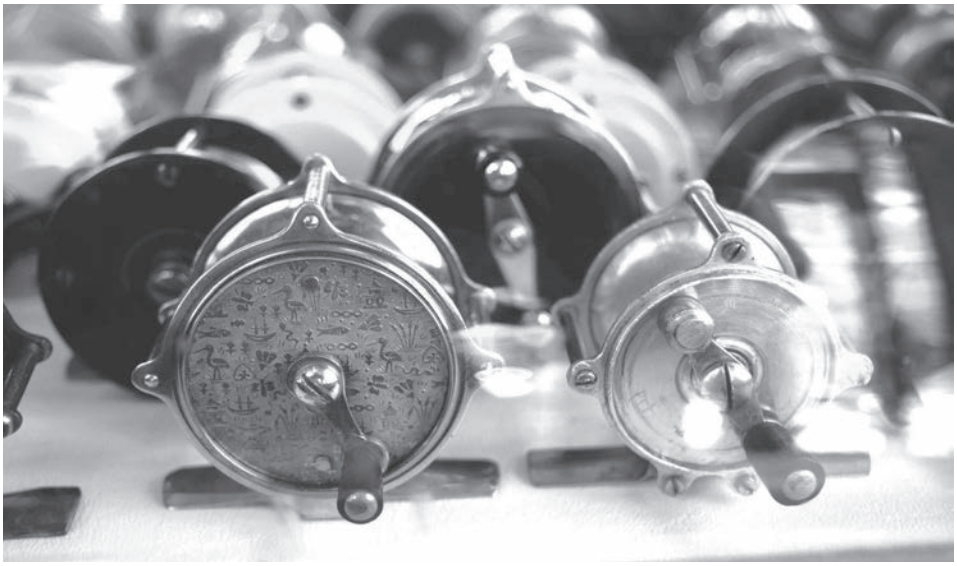
BY RICHARD K. LODGE

BOLTON LANDING, N.Y. — It's kind of an inside joke. Is the Old Reel Collectors Association a group of old reel collectors or a group of collectors of old reels?

Either way you look at it, old and young fans of antique and collectible fishing reels gathered at a resort overlooking Lake George the week of September 18 and picked over tables of fishing reels and related gear – some dating to the early 1800s – for additions to their personal collections.

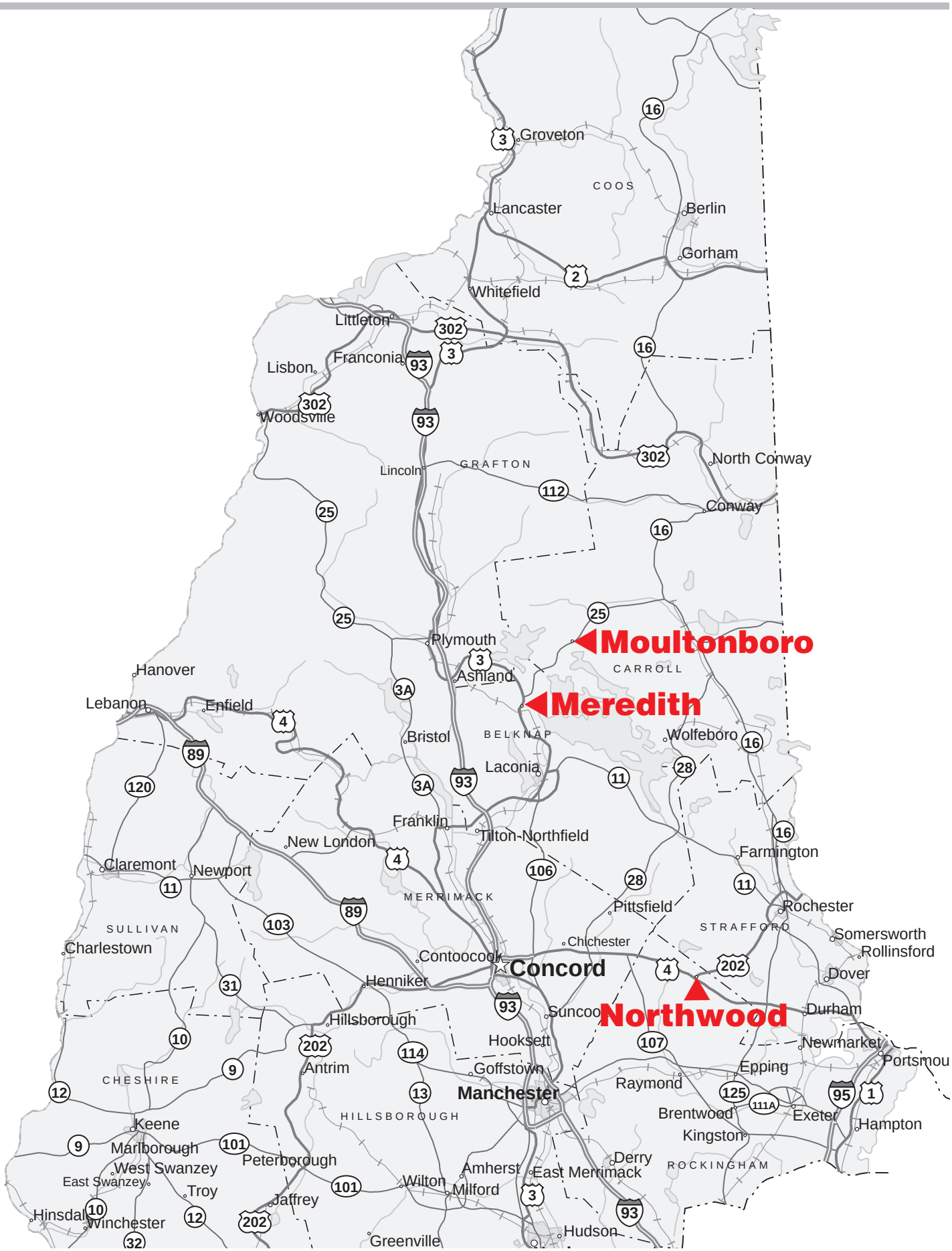
The Old Reel Collectors Association, ORCA for short, has been holding its annual convention since 1999 – including an online "virtual" convention in

SEE FISHING REEL CONVENTION PAGE 81



Right: A closeup of some of the dozens of reels by New York maker John Kopf that are in the collection of Henry Caldwell, an antique dealer and ORCA member from New York.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - 1 Section



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Above: Collectors don't need deep pockets for this hobby. The Johnson Century closed-face casting reel, at left, could be purchased for $15 to $30 at the convention and it is suitable for fishing as well. The Langley Lurecast, shown at right, also good for fishing, was made from 1948-1962.

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Fishing Reel

From Page 79

2020 during the pandemic – at venues around the country. This year's five-day gathering at Blue Water Manor in Bolton Landing marked the third time ORCA convened at Lake George. Among the highlights was a bus trip to the American Museum of Fly Fishing in Manchester, Vermont, where curator (and former ORCA president) Jim Schottenham displayed a variety of American and British fishing reels.

This year's convention saw scores of reels bought, sold or traded among collectors, with some especially rare reels going for thousands of dollars. A German-silver B.F. Meek baitcasting reel engraved with an early 1890s date reportedly changed hands for $8,000.

But buyers didn't need big bank accounts to enhance and sweeten their collections. The show, which opened to the public for one day, featured hundreds of reels from manufacturers such as Shakespeare, Pflueger, South Bend, Mitchell, and Langley. A well-made Langley Lurecast Model 330, made from 1948-1962 and still a great fishing tool today, went for $20. A closed-face spincasting Johnson Century Model 100B – familiar to many Baby Boomers who might have found one under the Christmas tree back in the 1960s – could be had for $15 to $30, depending on condition.

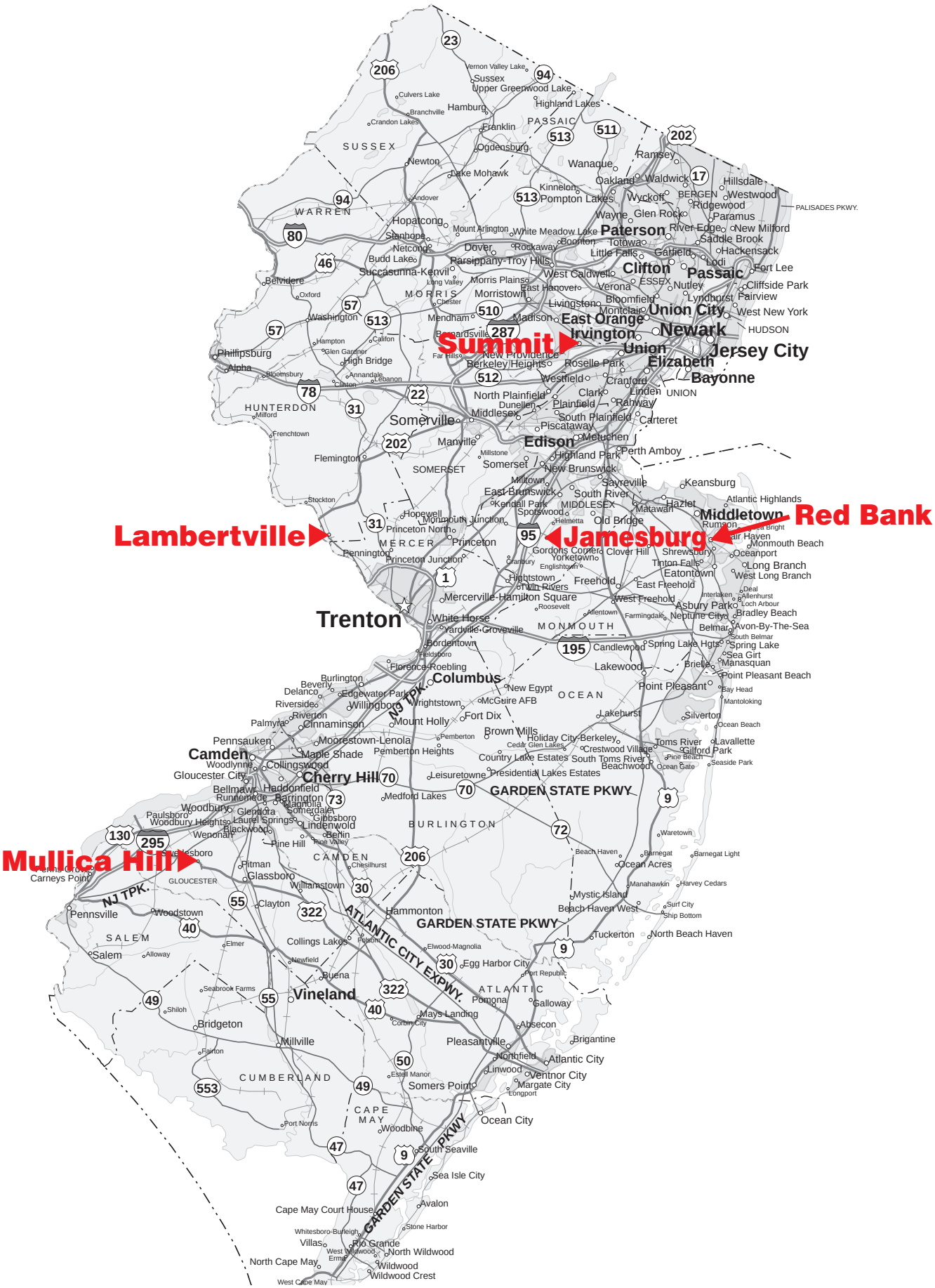
Author and bamboo fly rodmaker Hoagy Carmichael Jr., who is son of the Bloomington, Indiana, native, famous singer and "Stardust" songwriter, set up a table brimming with late 19th and early 20th century English-made Hardy reels. Depending on condition and rarity, Hardys can sell for $200 to several thousand dollars. Some of the older models are still used today for fly fishing.

In keeping with ORCA's mission to teach people about reelmakers and the history of fishing reels, the show also included educational displays and seminars on reel history and ways to use databases to research reelmakers. Current ORCA president Matt Wickham,

See Fishing Reel Convention Page 86

Above: Although the Old Reel Collectors Association focuses on antique and collectible fishing reels, other fishing related items are for sale or display as well, including this collection of colorful salmon flies, displayed by Steve Woit.

NEW JERSEY - 1 Section



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Knocking Pins

Bowling and its offshoots were popular long before the first piece of pine was laid in an alley. Archaeological evidence points to a bowling-type game in ancient Egypt. Outdoor bowling was popular throughout Europe in the 1700s and 1800s, and even considered a religious exercise in Germany. An eerie game of ninepin even sets the stage for Washington Irving's 1819 famed tale, "Rip Van Winkle."

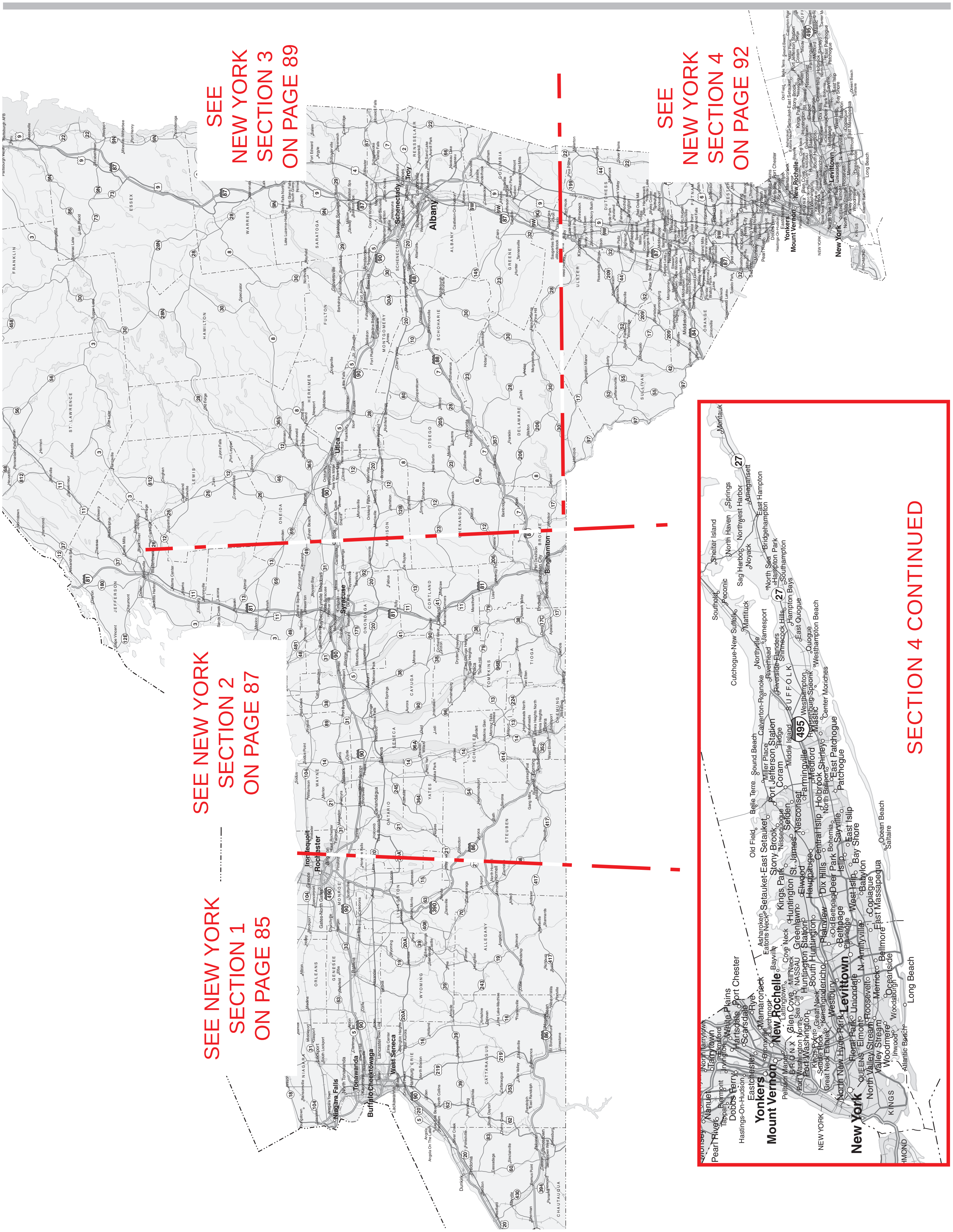
Submersible Succession

Peter the Great commissioned the first experimental submarine in Russia in 1720. The first American attempt at building a submarine came in 1776 with a vessel called the Turtle, although there is no record of it engaging another vessel. That award for the first successful attack by submarine went to the French in 1801 with a sub called Nautilus.

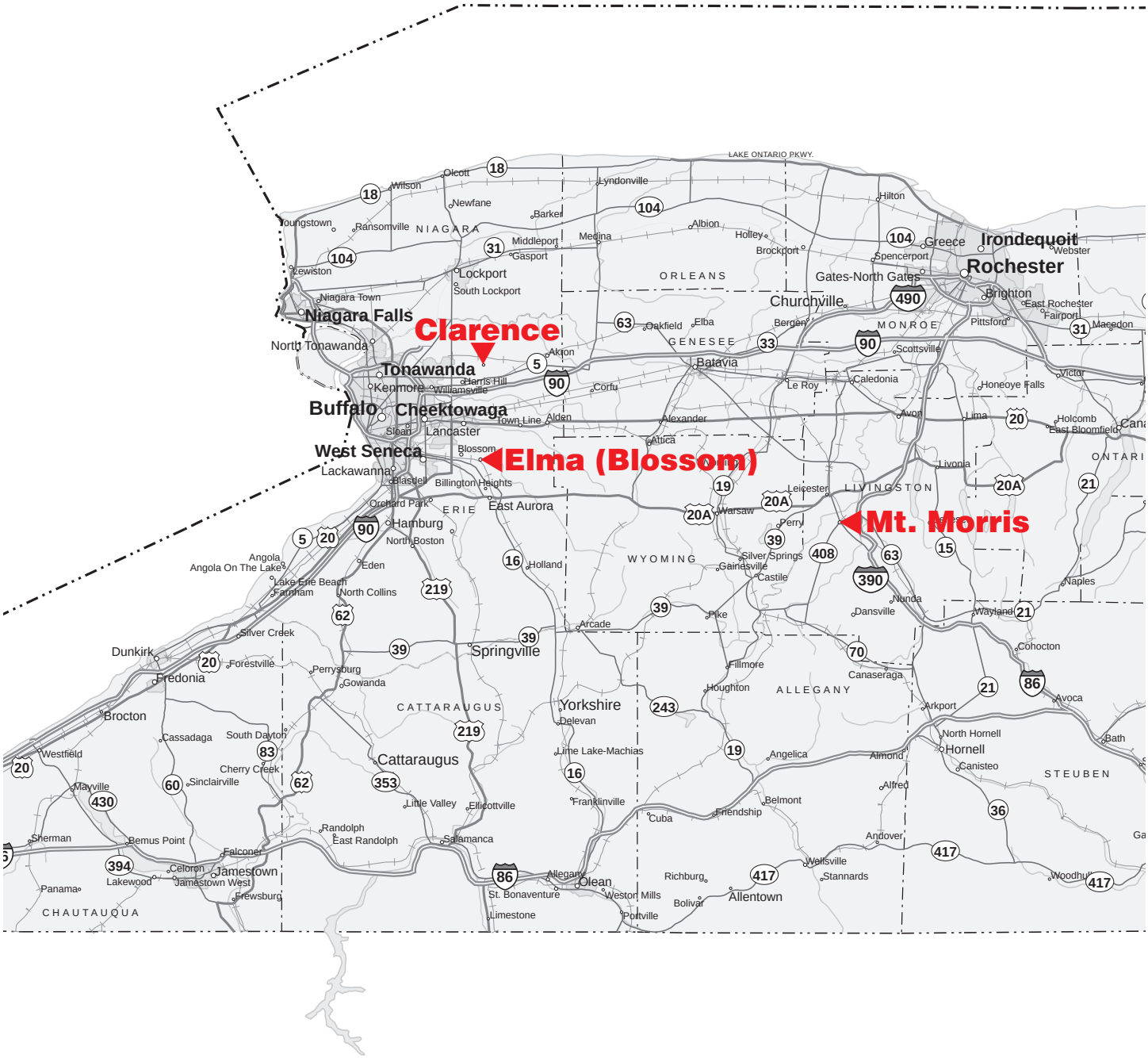
Shop til You Drop

While enclosed shopping malls are struggling, open-air outdoor shopping plazas are thriving. Several shopping centers claim fame as the "first" outdoor shopping enclave built in America. Among the rivals are the Country Club Plaza in Kansas City, Highland Park Village in Dallas, and the Town & Country in Columbus Ohio.

NEW YORK - 4 SECTIONS; PAGES 84-93



NEW YORK - Section 1 Western



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Fishing Reel

FROM PAGE 81

a collector of Kentucky reels, cited the continuing interest in the fishing reel displays – which are judged for their content and presentation – as well as the reels displayed for sale on tables throughout the convention.

"Interest and pricing remain strong," he said. "While the internet has expanded the market for tackle, the shows always bring out reels and people and deals that cannot be done online. We continue to see rare items turn up at shows, some not for sale at this time, but just for show and tell."

Show host Henry Caldwell, who owns Black Bass Antiques in Bolton Landing, brought along his display of reels made in the late 1800s by John Kopf, a reelmaker in Brooklyn, New York. Kopf rarely put his name on his reels, but they often are stamped with one or more of his patent dates for unique features, such as the style of the reel foot which attaches the reel to a fishing rod.

Caldwell said New York City – Brooklyn in particular – was a hotbed of fishing reel innovation and manufacture in the late 1800s, offering reels by Edward and Julius Vom Hofe, Frederick Malleson, U.S. Net & Twine, and the Montague Rod & Reel Company. Made in Brooklyn, these reels were sold across the country. Besides the makers' name, rarity and condition are key when collecting reels of this era. For example, a limited production run of an Edward Vom Hofe large saltwater reel in excellent condition might bring anywhere from $500 to $5,000, while more humble and common reels produced by Montague can often be acquired for $20 to $50.

Many fishing reel collectors take up the hobby because they also enjoy fishing, while others start collecting after buying their first reel at a yard sale or flea market. Still others inherit fishing gear from a parent or favorite relative, leading to a life-long interest in building a collection.

As Caldwell told a local newspaper reporter, "People have been fishing for sport for hundreds of years. There's a lot of history to it and people want to know more about it. They may begin with an interest in reels they once fished with and go from there."

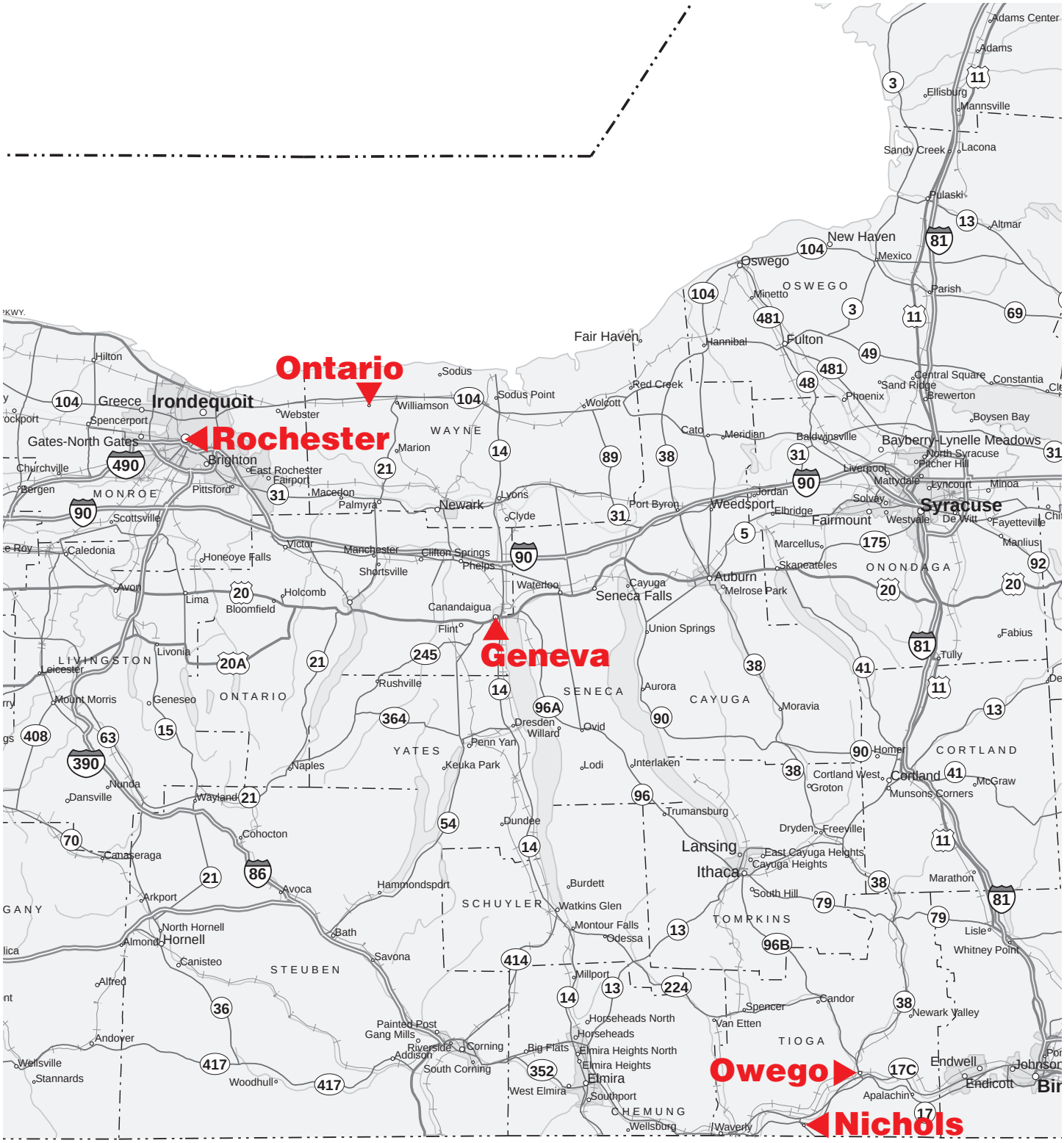
In addition to the displays and the buying and selling of old reels, the ORCA convention also featured an accuracy casting competition, using antique tackle, and an antique tackle fishing tournament on Lake George.

The nonprofit club, which was founded about 35 years ago, publishes a full-color magazine called "The Reel News" every other month, and hosts an extensive website with hundreds of documents and schematics relating to reels and their history as well as a searchable digital archive of every issue of the club magazine.

For more about the Old Reel Collectors Association: www.orcaonline.org.

Right: Mark Bumgarner, an ORCA member from Illinois, tries his hand at accuracy casting with a vintage level-wind casting reel, as ORCA member critique his style.

NEW YORK - Section 2 Rochester



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Smell the Coffee

The first espresso machine was invented in France in 1822. It could brew up to 2,000 cups per hour. It was a scary-looking beast that seemed better suited to a factory floor than a cafe. By the late 1800s, Italian craftsmen had turned the steam machines into works of art; yet they were still huge mechanisms with gauges, pipes, and valves that took a very experienced operator to use.

Keyboard Confusion

The modern computer keyboard mimics that of a typewriter. Ironically, the arrangement of the keys is anything but efficient. Early keyboards were often laid out in alphabetical order, but operators could type faster than machines could process. In 1870, a Wisconsin printer was enlisted to engineer an inefficient layout designed to slow down typists. Remington was the first to employ the new format, known by its top row of letters - QWERTY. While more efficient layouts could have eventually been adopted, the qwerty layout stuck because of tradition.

Ode to Perfume

While perfumery dates back to ancient Mesopotamia, floral perfumes became big business in Europe in the nineteenth century. Not understanding how diseases were spread, people mistakenly believed that sickness came from breathing bad smells emanating from poor sanitation. Perfumes and floral bouquets were enlisted to help prevent one from encountering noxious odors.

On Three Wheels

The Polaris Slingshot is a modern-day, lightweight three-wheel car that is getting a lot of press. However, three-wheel vehicles are not new. One of the world's first cars, the 1886 Benz Motorwagon, was a three-wheeler. For seven decades, other European brands, including BMW and Fiat, experimented with the format. Even during the gas-tight 1970s, an upstart U.S. brand, the Twentieth Century Motor Car Corporation, experimented with a three-wheel vehicle.

Fixed Incomes

According to one set of government figures, the average income in the U.S. for 2023 was between $50,000 and $90,000. In 1923, the average income was only beween $3,300 and $5,700. Ironically, adjusted for inflation, those century-old figures compute to between $50,000 and $100,000 in today's money!

Gimme a Slice

Pizza is such a fixture on American tables it would be hard to imagine a time when people didn't know what it was. Yet, pizza only arrived on US shores around 1900, coming with the influx of Italian immigrants. A New York Italian restaurant called Lombardi's is credited with being the first to serve the pies in the U.S. in 1905. Pizza Hut, which opened in 1958, is credited with being the first pizza chain.

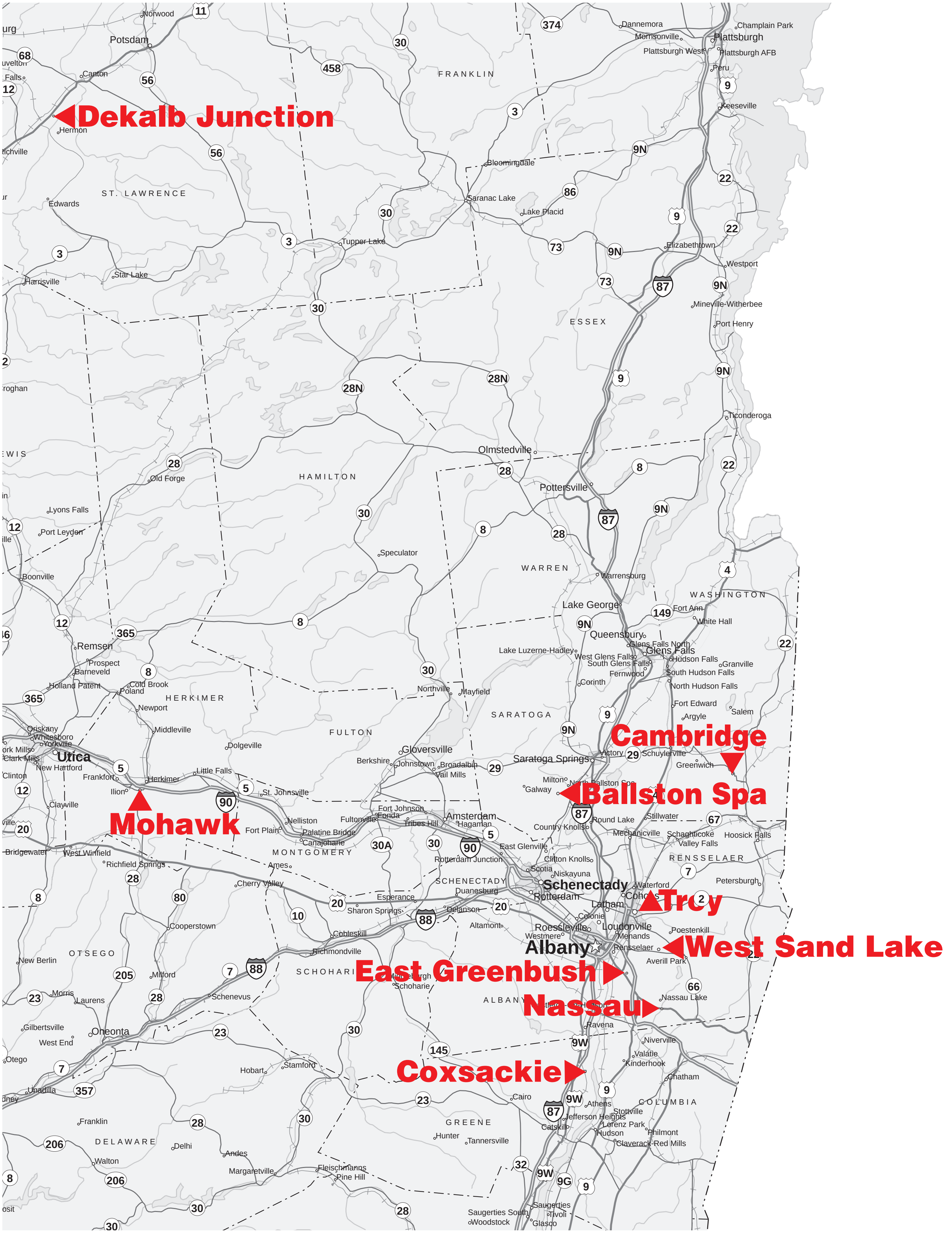
What's in a Name?

Who isn't familiar with the iconic Oreo™ cookie? Before it graced cookie jars, there was the similar, yet odd sounding Hydrox® sandwich cookie introduced in 1908 by the Sunshine Biscuit Company. A competitor, National Biscuit Company, which went on to become Nabisco, patterned a similar cookie. They named it after a Greek word meaning "attractive", helping it become a consumer name.

Color the World

The first crayons were made of charcoal and oil, similar to today's artists' pastels. In 1903, a husband/wife team formulated a substitute made from wax and colored pigment. They toyed with a name combining the French word "craie," meaning "stick" and "ola" meaning "oily," eventually arriving at Crayola.

NEW YORK - Section 3 Northeastern



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Rinse and Return

That recycling bin in your garage is tied to a very long history of salvage and reuse. Households collected scrap metal for the war efforts in both WWI and WWII. The first aluminum can recycling plant opened in 1904. Paper drives held by churches, schools, and scouts date to the 1950s. In the first half of the 20th century, bottles were usually washed and returned. That process was eventually incentivized with bottle deposits of 2-5 cents that would be given back to consumers when bottles were returned.

Presidential Spirits

Three famous Presidents had professional ties to the liquor industry. George Washington had a noted rye distillery near Mount Vernon. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams were both brewers. In the 1830s, Abraham Lincoln co-owned a tavern in Illinois and often served as a bartender.

Nintendo Leveled Up

One of the most successful video game companies in history - Nintendo - had a hard time finding its path to success. The company opened in 1889, originally making playing cards. By the 1960s, it had tried stints as a hotelier, food service business, and even a taxi company. In 1974, they entered the video game industry where they found global success.

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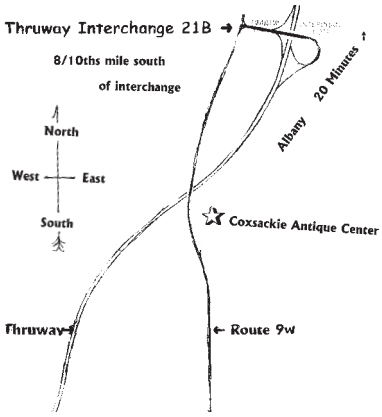

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On the tube

Remember the days when there were only three major television networks? When, even with an antenna, the picture was still a bit snowy? When new shows premiered in September with 20-some episodes, with reruns during the summertime? Then you might have enjoyed the popular shows of 1974, which include the top-rated show, "All in the Family," followed by "Sanford and Son." Other favorites, according to Nielsen Median Research, were "Chico and the Man" and "The Jeffersons" (a spin-off from "All in the Family"), "M*A*S*H" and "Rhoda," (an outgrowth of 11th-ranking "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"), "Maude" (another "All in the Family" spin-off") and "Good Times," and "The Waltons" and "Hawaii Five-O."

50 Years of Phantom of the Paradise

The year 2024 marks the 50th anniversary of Phantom of the Paradise, the musical horror film about a guy who sold his soul for rock 'n' roll. Directed by Brian De Palma and with music by and starring Paul Williams, the film has remained a cult classic.

There are Phantom collectibles available for every budget.

Anyone wishing to sing along with The Juicy Fruits, Swan, Phoenix, and the rest of the cast of characters can do so with an original copy of the soundtrack album on vinyl. You can find a copy in very good condition for about $20 on Discogs.

While listening to the soundtrack, you can enjoy looking at an original poster. Heritage Auctions sold a 27-inch-by-41-inch color poster with artwork by Richard Corben in fine/very fine condition for $109 at a December 10, 2023, sale. Meanwhile, an original concept sketch of the Phantom's famous helmet by Thomas R. Burman sold for $320 at a Heritage Auctions sale in December 2019.

However, perhaps the coolest Phantom of the Paradise collectible ever sold at a Bonham's Music & Monsters sale in October 2023—a complete Phantom costume worn in the film by actor William Finley. It sold for $55,000.

Fans Face Their Waterloo With ABBA Collectibles

The historical Battle of Waterloo may have taken place on June 18, 1815, but 50 years ago, on April 6, 1974, Swedish pop group ABBA won the war—or at least the Eurovision Song Contest—with their own song "Waterloo." The group's acclaimed performance skyrocketed ABBA, which had been founded to little fanfare in 1972, to global super-stardom.

From records to films to T-shirts, buttons, and even shoelaces, there's a wealth of vintage ABBA collectibles for fans to discover. In August 2023, a color poster signed by all four members of the group sold at a Heritage Auctions sale for $750. However, a non-signed poster advertising ABBA: The Move sold for the more affordable price of $109 at a November 2023 Heritage sale.

However, objects that have been owned or used by ABBA members still retain some stardust; a 1977 BMW 633 owned by group member Benny Andersson sold in 2018 at a Sotheby's auction in Paris for a record $42,500—the highest auction price ever reached for that particular model.

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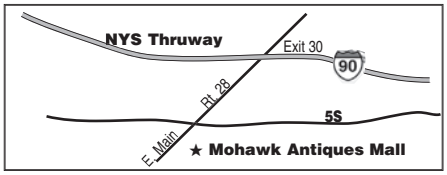

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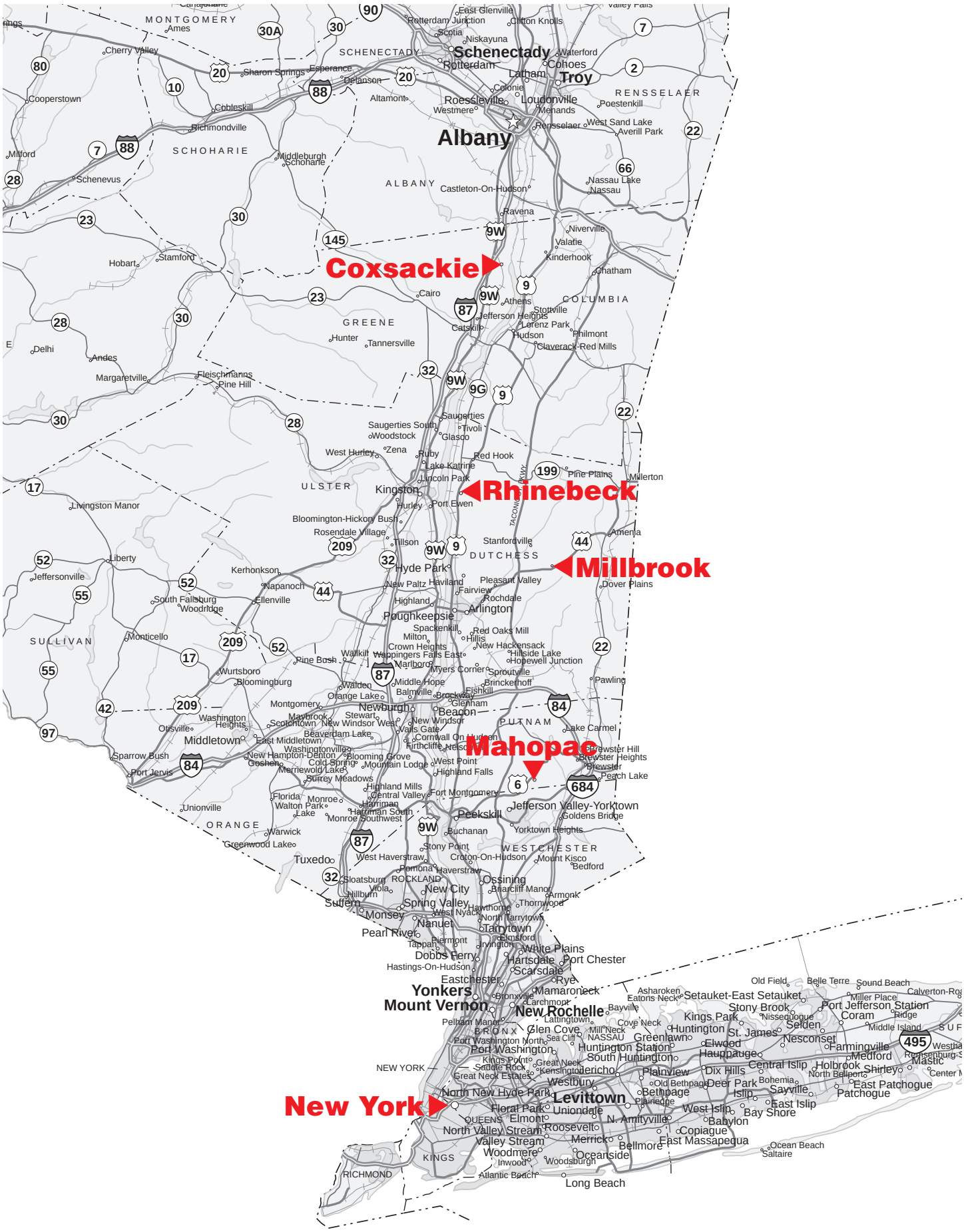

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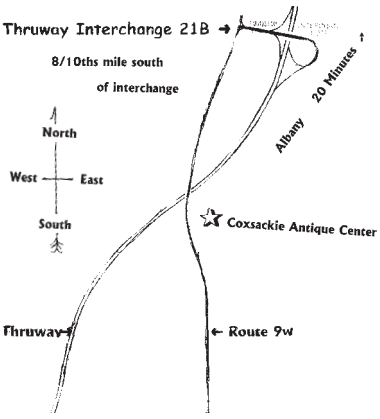

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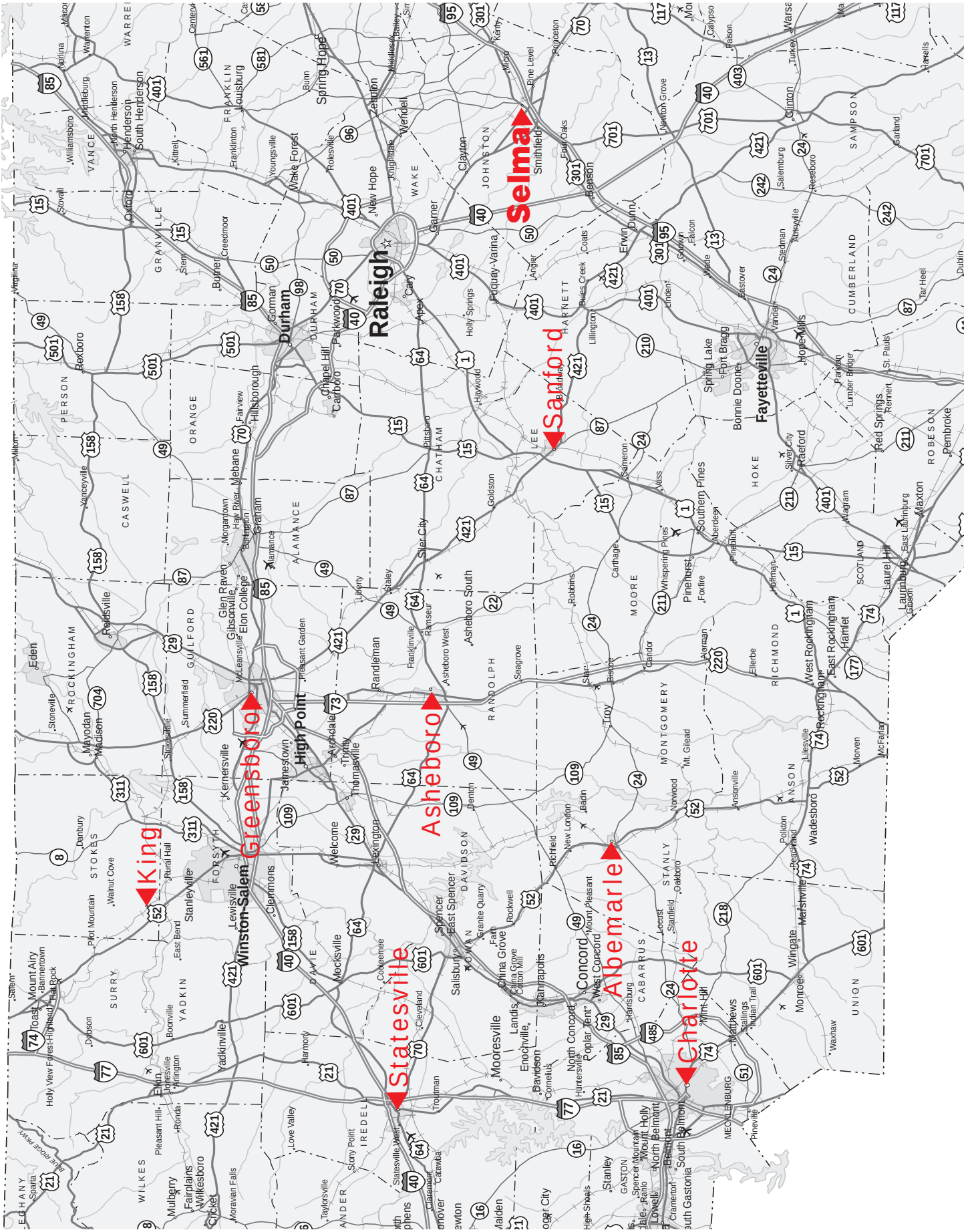

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NORTH CAROLINA

Hot tracks

Topping the charts in 1974 was "The Way We Were" by Barbra Streisand. Terry Jacks' "Seasons in the Sun" was essentially a farewell to life and friends. And then, at number 3, there's Barry White's instrumental,"Love's Theme," performed by the Love Unlimited Orchestra and heavy on the strings. At number 4, "Come and Get Your Love" was performed by the American rock band Redbone (Remember them? No? No worries!). On the other hand, former bandmates made their mark with "Band on the Run" (Paul McCartney and Wings) and "You're Sixteen" (by Ringo Starr, who turned 34 that year). John Denver sang "Sunshine on My Shoulder." Kool & the Gang scored with "Jungle Boogie." And pop music fans celebrated midnight at the Oasis while warning Billy not to be a hero. Just how groovy was the music that dominated the airwaves 50 years ago? Was it music for falling in love? Or music for tearing up the dancefloor? Or none of the above: What were we thinking? You be the judge.

"Semiquincentennial" (phew!)

Remember America's Bicentennial? Hard to believe, but that landmark in our country's history is now nearly half a century old. And so, as America prepares to celebrate its 250th birthday, think about what you want to put aside for the next generation. There will no doubt be multiple commemorative wares produced for the occasion, just as there have always been for important American milestones. What will grow in monetary value over the years can never be predicted. That said, just as with all antiques and collectibles, buy what gives you pleasure. And if it appreciates in value, so much the better.

Cocktails

Thanks to an interest in all things mid-century, combined with an increased number of people working from home, cocktail hour has taken on a new look. And what better way to explore new-to-you potent potables than with vintage cocktail recipe books? Start a collection with simple advertising booklets produced by liquor producers. Later editions of famous books are affordable, and, consequently, can be used and enjoyed. Appreciate the stylish graphics that often illustrate these books, and don't be afraid to experiment. Cheers!

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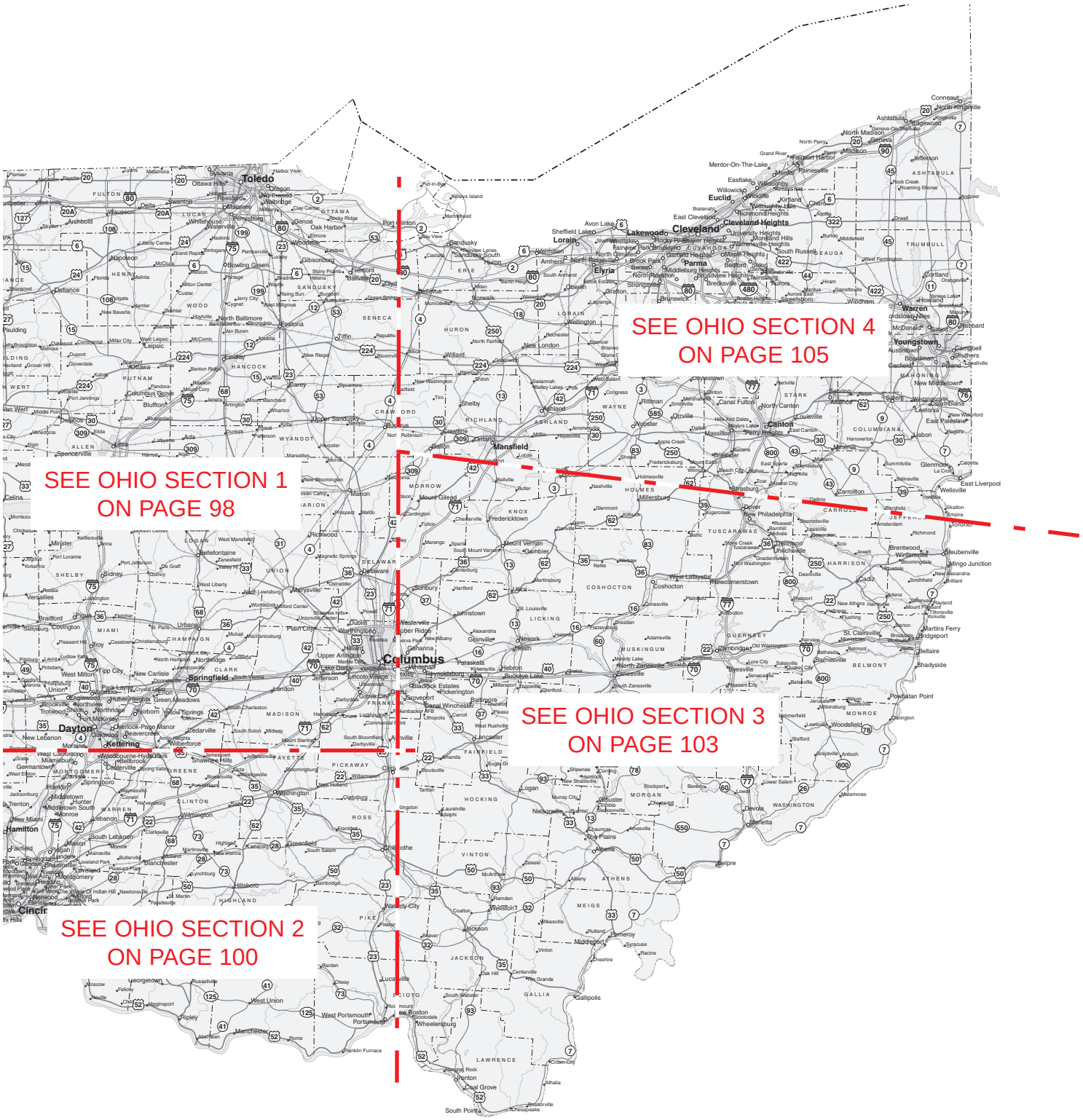

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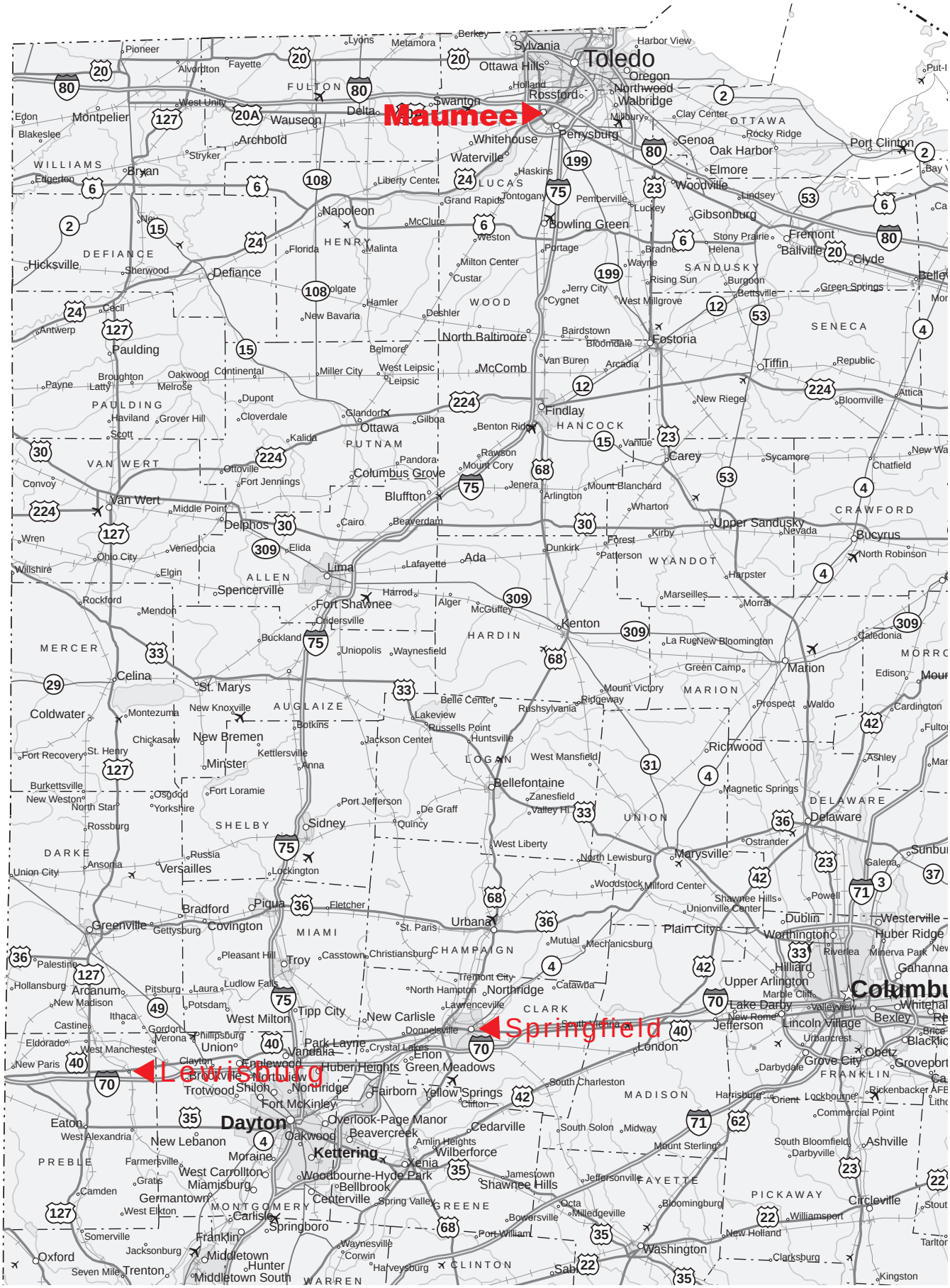

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Don't stop! Run the yellow to get to that traffic light

By Barbara Miller Beem

Remember playing "Red Light Green Light" at recess time back in elementary school? Or are you one of those drivers who slaps the sunvisor when "running the yellow"? And are there certain intersections on your daily route that threaten to make you late for everything? Traffic signals are so much a part of everyday life that it's easy to understand how they might be taken for granted, much less collected.

Or maybe not.

Last year, the public's attention was drawn to traffic signals, and more specifically, to the middle yellow light, as Garrett Morgan's patent for the "caution light" marked its one hundredth anniversary. But a niche group of collectors did not need media attention for encouragement: Traffic signals are avidly sought and restored by enthusiasts, history lovers who have a fascination with what makes things work.

Modern automobile drivers are not the first to encounter unsafe activity on the road. Years before gasoline-powered vehicles were popular means of transportation, the world's first traffic lights were introduced. In 1868, outside the House of Parliament in London, a traffic regulator was erected in response to the serious injury of two MPs and the death of a traffic policeman. This device was a semaphore system developed by John Peake Knight, patterned after those used on the railway's red-green light system. But when problems with the gas-powered fixture proved dangerous, it was removed, having been in operation for little more than a year.

Decades later, in 1912, Salt Lake City installed the first electric traffic signal in the United States. Thanks in part to his practical experience as a police officer, Lester Wire invented what was dubbed as "Wire's bird cage," "Wire's pigeon house," and the "flashing bird house." Eight years later, in 1920, another police officer, William Potts,

See Traffic Lights on page 101

Above: This four-way Marbelite from around the 1940s hung in Seattle. "Presto-Lite" sign boxes were popular for directing traffic.

Above: A Marbelite pedestrian signal from New York City. These signals were famous for their bulbs overheating and catching on fire as the internal parts and lenses were plastic.

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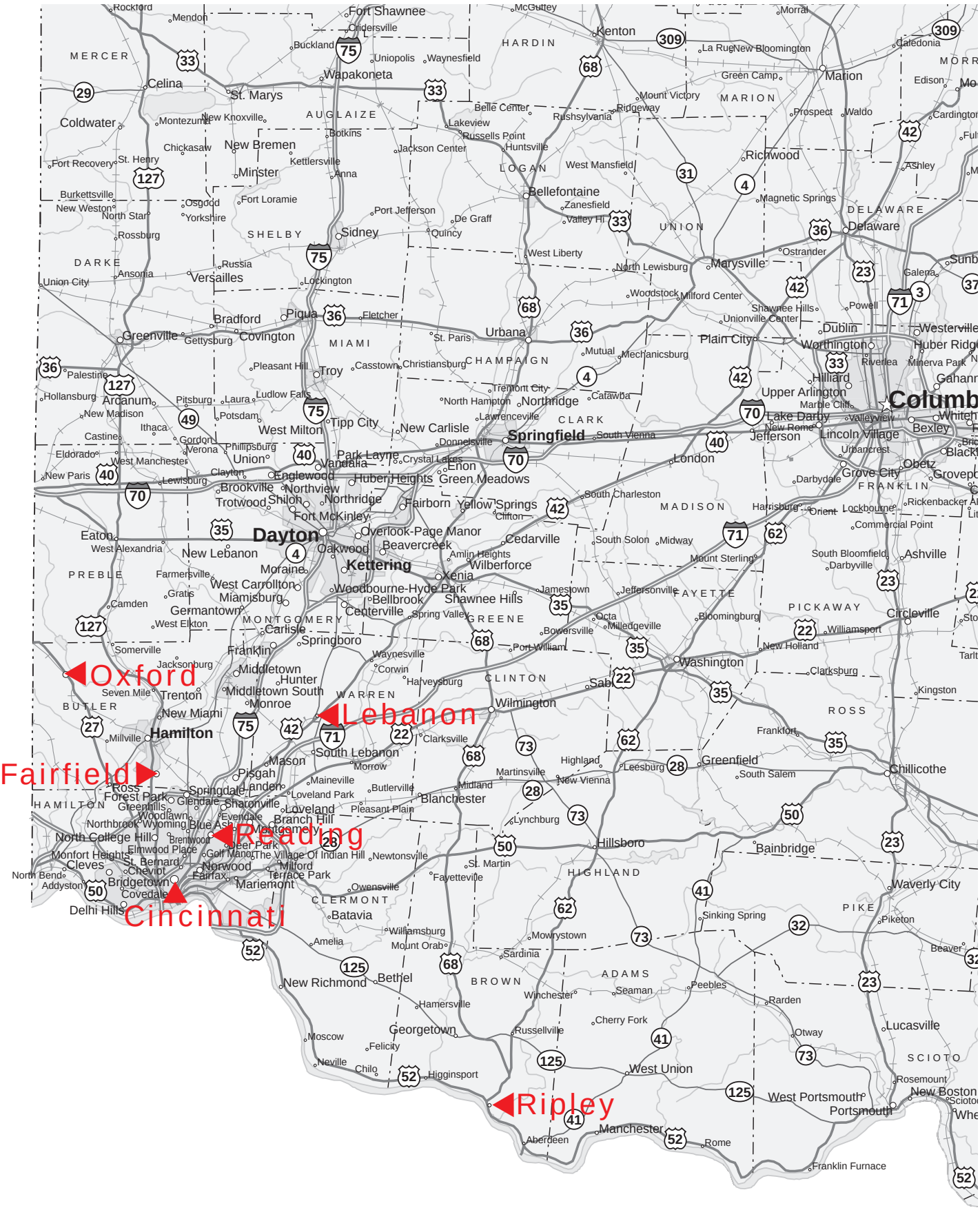

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Traffic Lights

From Page 99

developed the first tri-color, four-way traffic signal; installed in Detroit, Potts' invention marked the first time that a yellow light had been incorporated to caution drivers of an impending change from green to red.

Three years later, on November 20, 1923, Garrett Morgan was awarded a patent for his mechanical traffic regulator that included a "caution signal," indicating that a change of right-of-way was imminent. Although this was not the only patent awarded to the Ohio resident, called the "Black Edison," it proved to be a profitable one. General Motors purchased the patent in 1923 for $40,000 (today's equivalent of

See Traffic Lights on page 110

Above: A late 30s Eaglelux with Adler bar lenses. Signal pioneer Charles Adler, Jr., developed lenses for color-blind drivers. These lenses had bars across the center, with a horizontal bar meaning stop, a diagonal bar meaning caution or signal change, and a vertical bar meaning go.

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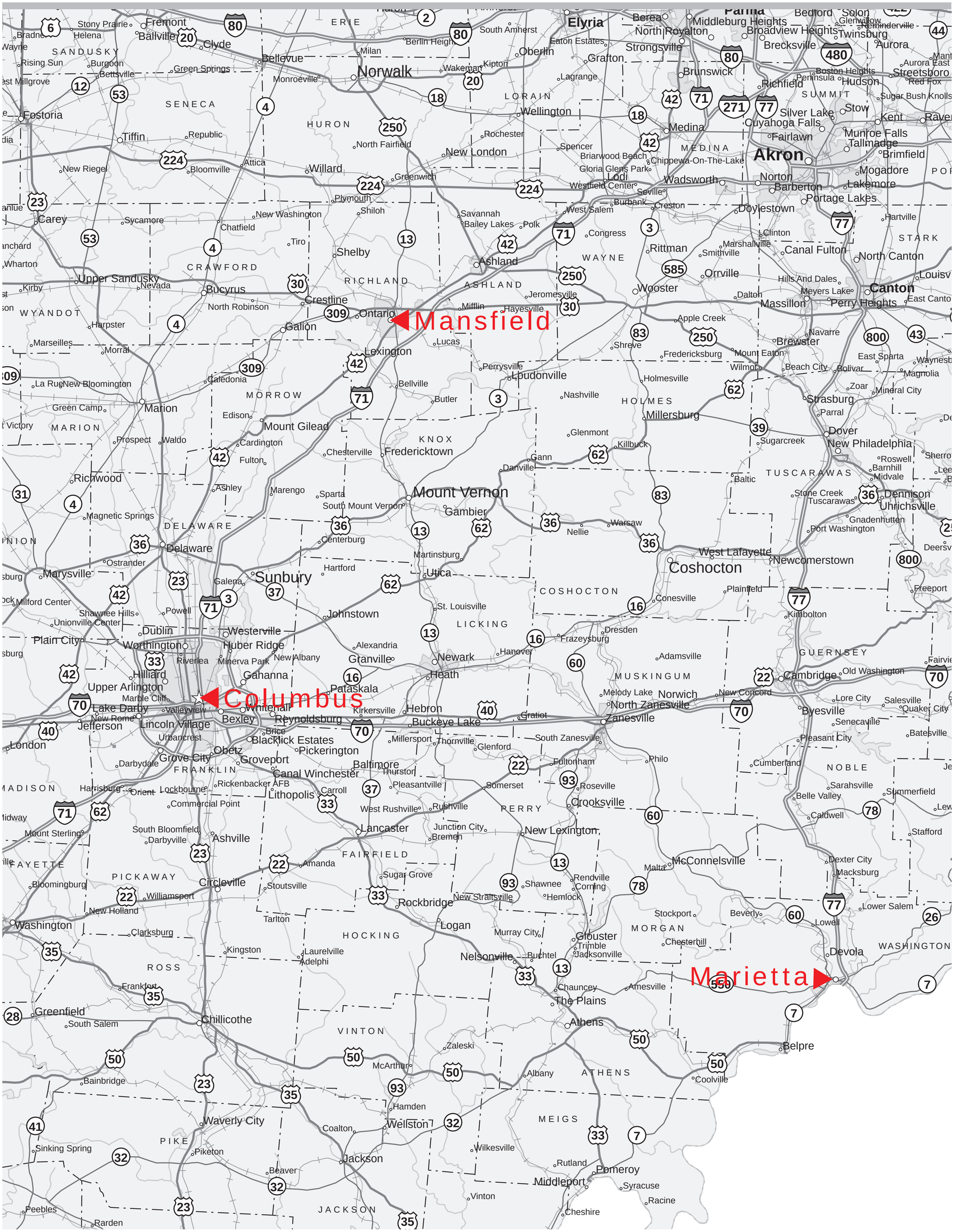

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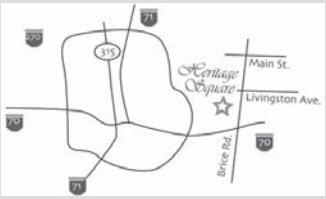

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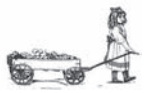
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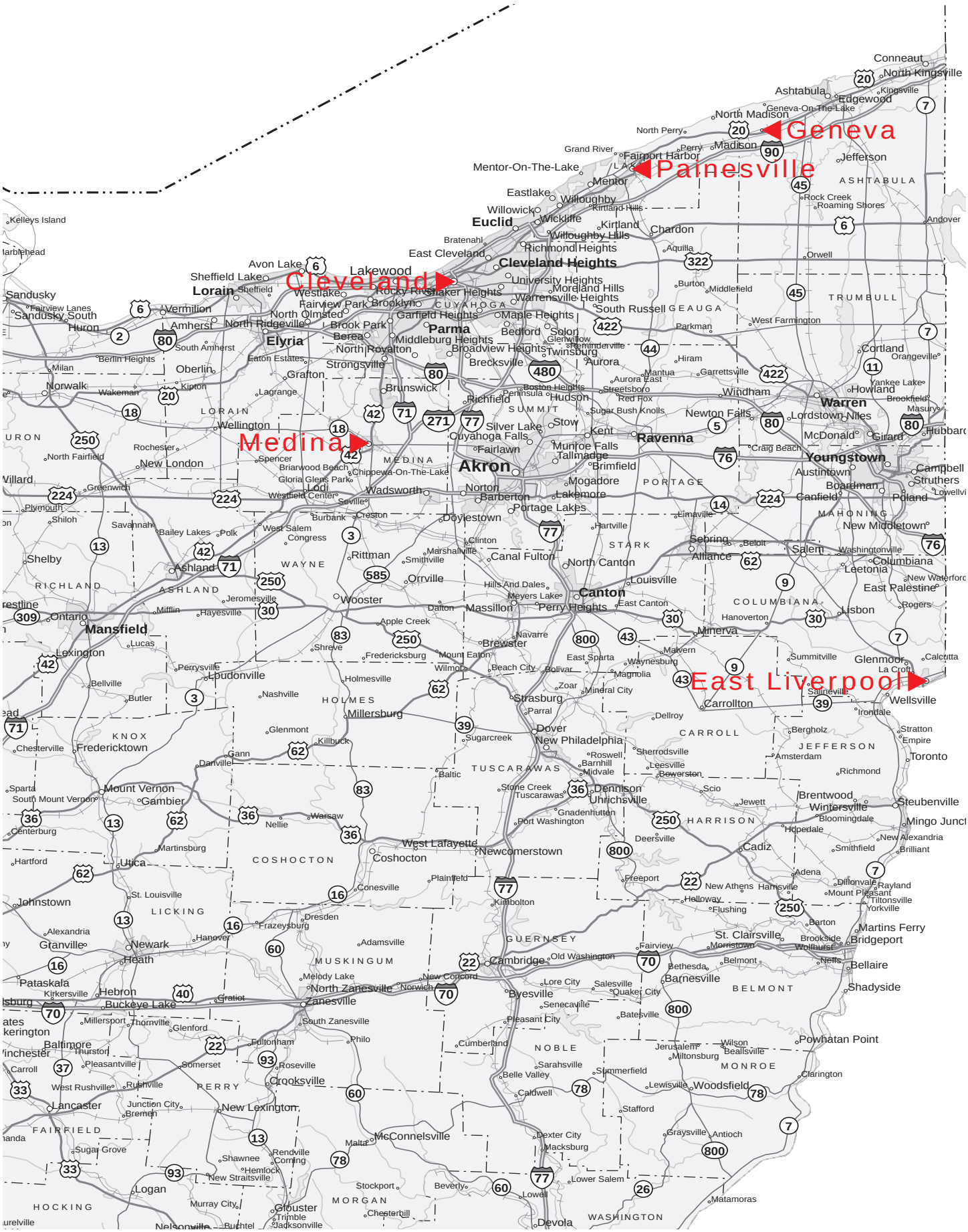

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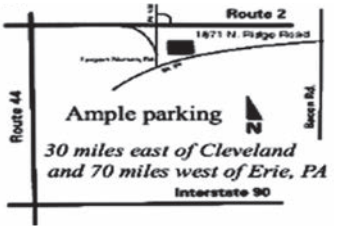

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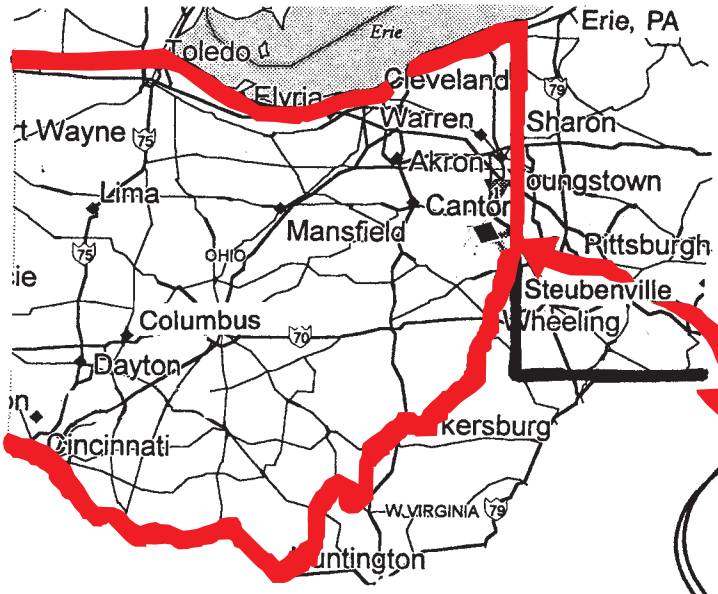

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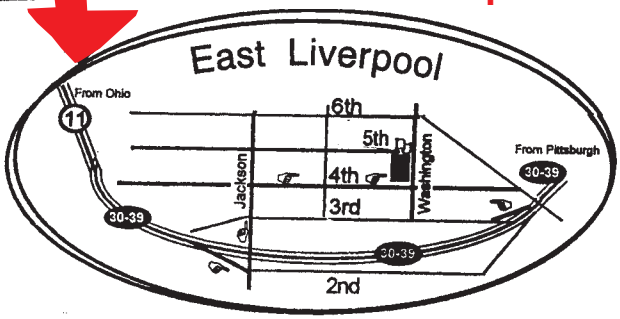

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Then take Downtown East Liverpool Exit

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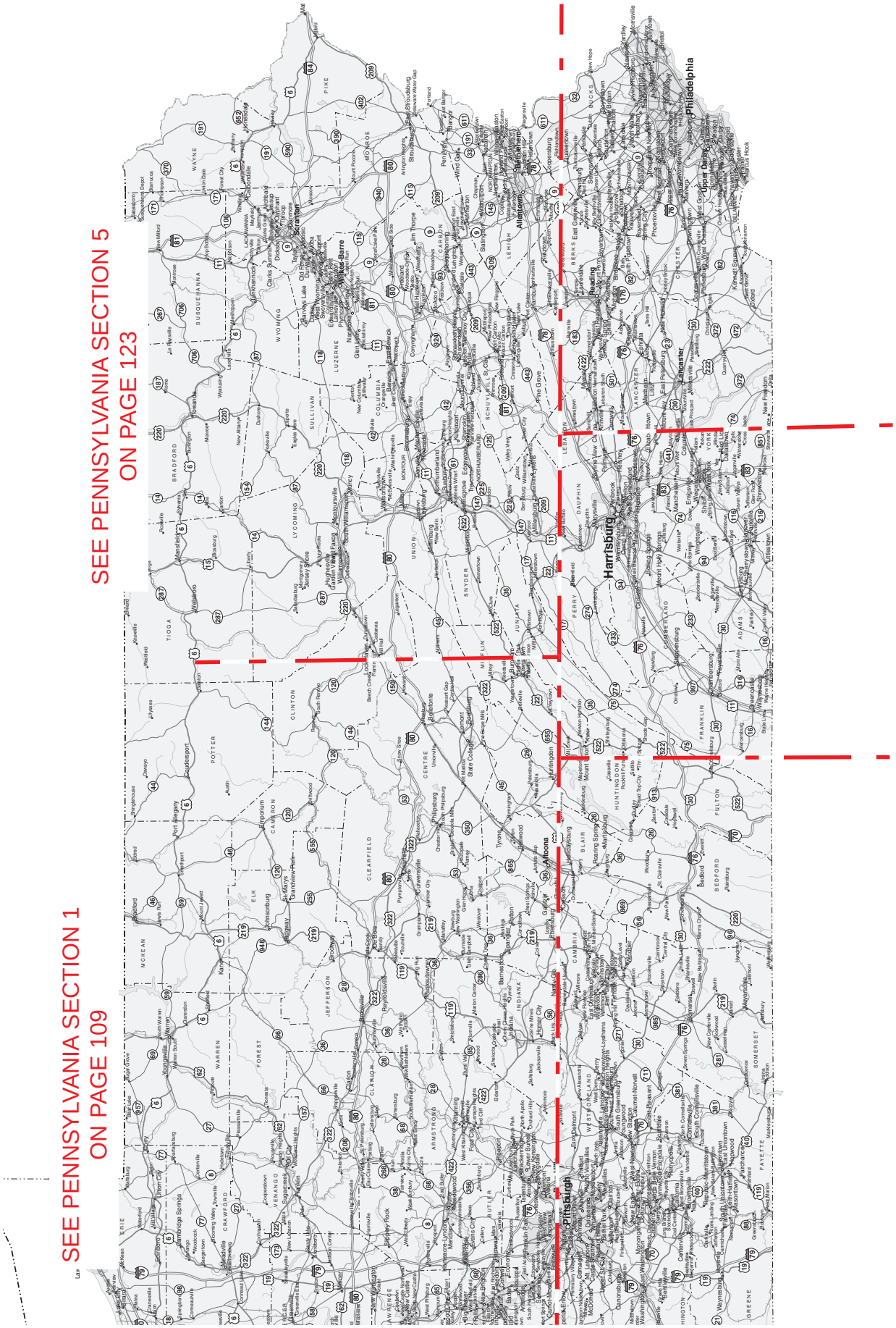
PENNSYLVANIA - 5 SECTIONS; PAGES 108-124



SEE PENNSYLVANIA SECTION 1 ON PAGE 109

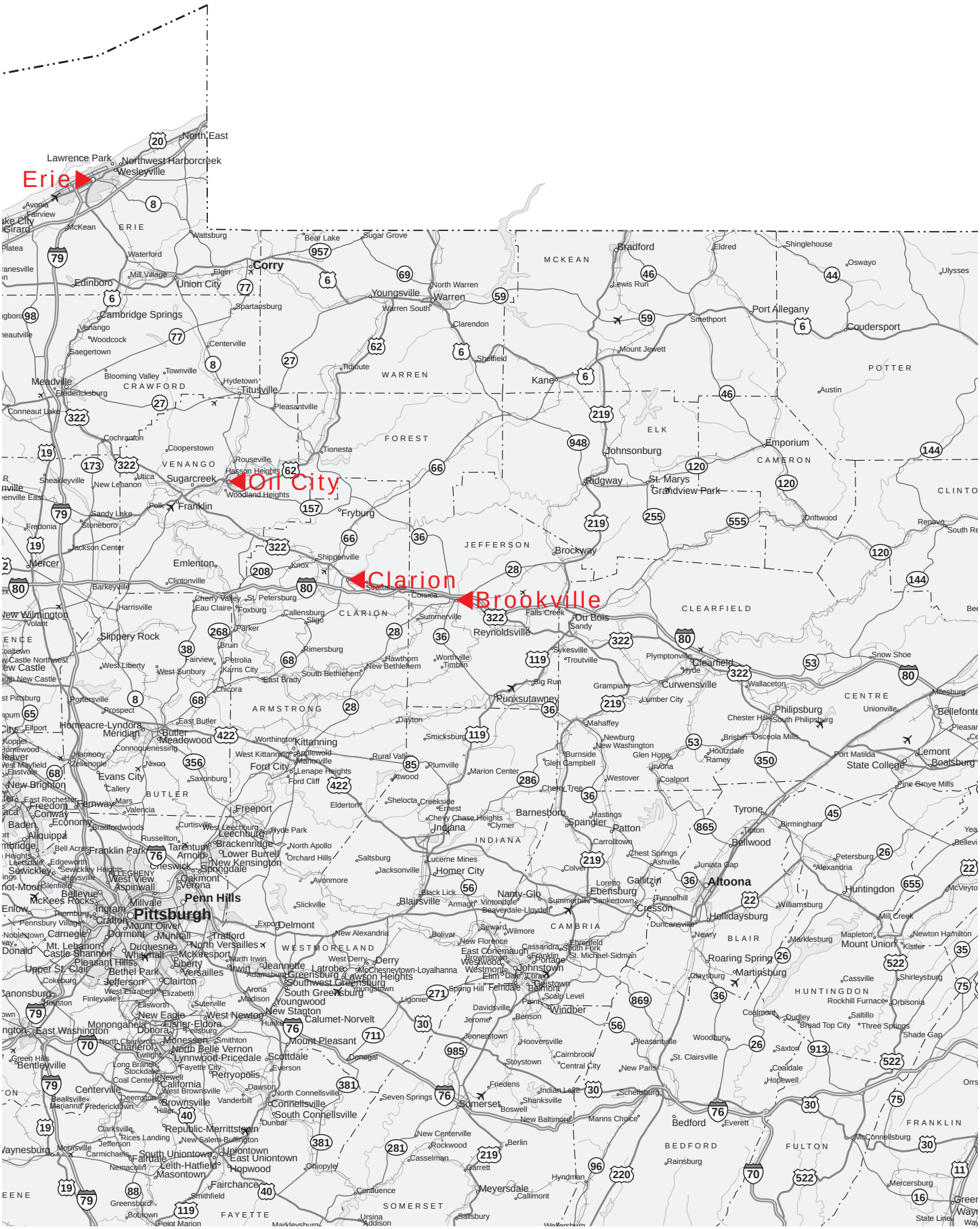
SEE PENNSYLVANIA SECTION 2 ON PAGE 111

SEE PENNSYLVANIA SECTION 3 ON PAGE 113

SEE PENNSYLVANIA SECTION 4 ON PAGE 116

SEE PENNSYLVANIA SECTION 5 ON PAGE 123

PENNSYLVANIA - Section 1 Northwestern



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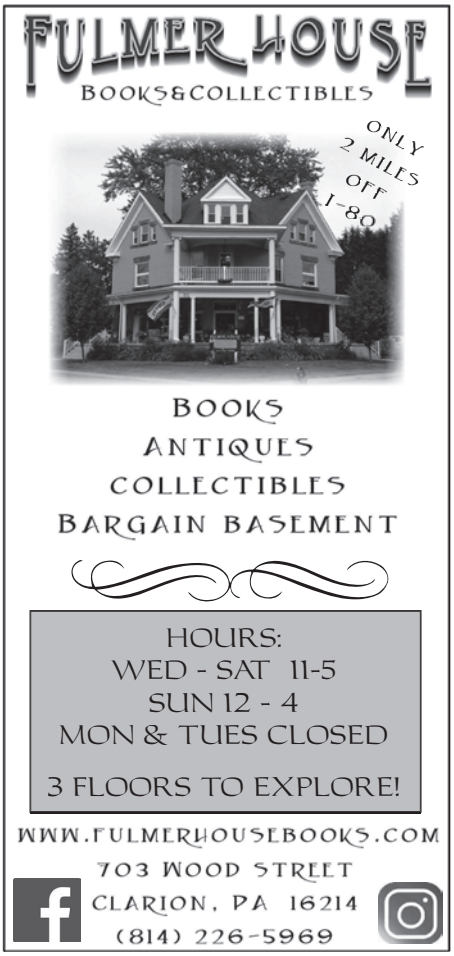


Above: A 1925 Harrington-Seaburg fire station warning signal to alert motorists and horse-drawn vehicle drivers that the fire companies would soon be racing out. The red STOP indication and a ringing bell got the message across.

Left: Facing the minor street, the lower section of this two-color signal had a walk indication.

Traffic Lights

From Page 101

$700,000) and "converted the concept to produce illuminated indications similar to signals found today," according to Willis Lamm.

"The original purpose for electric traffic signals was to protect policemen who directed traffic at significant intersections," Lamm, a longtime collector of traffic signals, explained. "Some (signals) were hung overhead to give advance warning with the officers standing underneath, who also provided hand signals. Others were operated from safe street corner positions." He added that eventually, officers were replaced with timers, which later evolved into traffic-actuated controls.

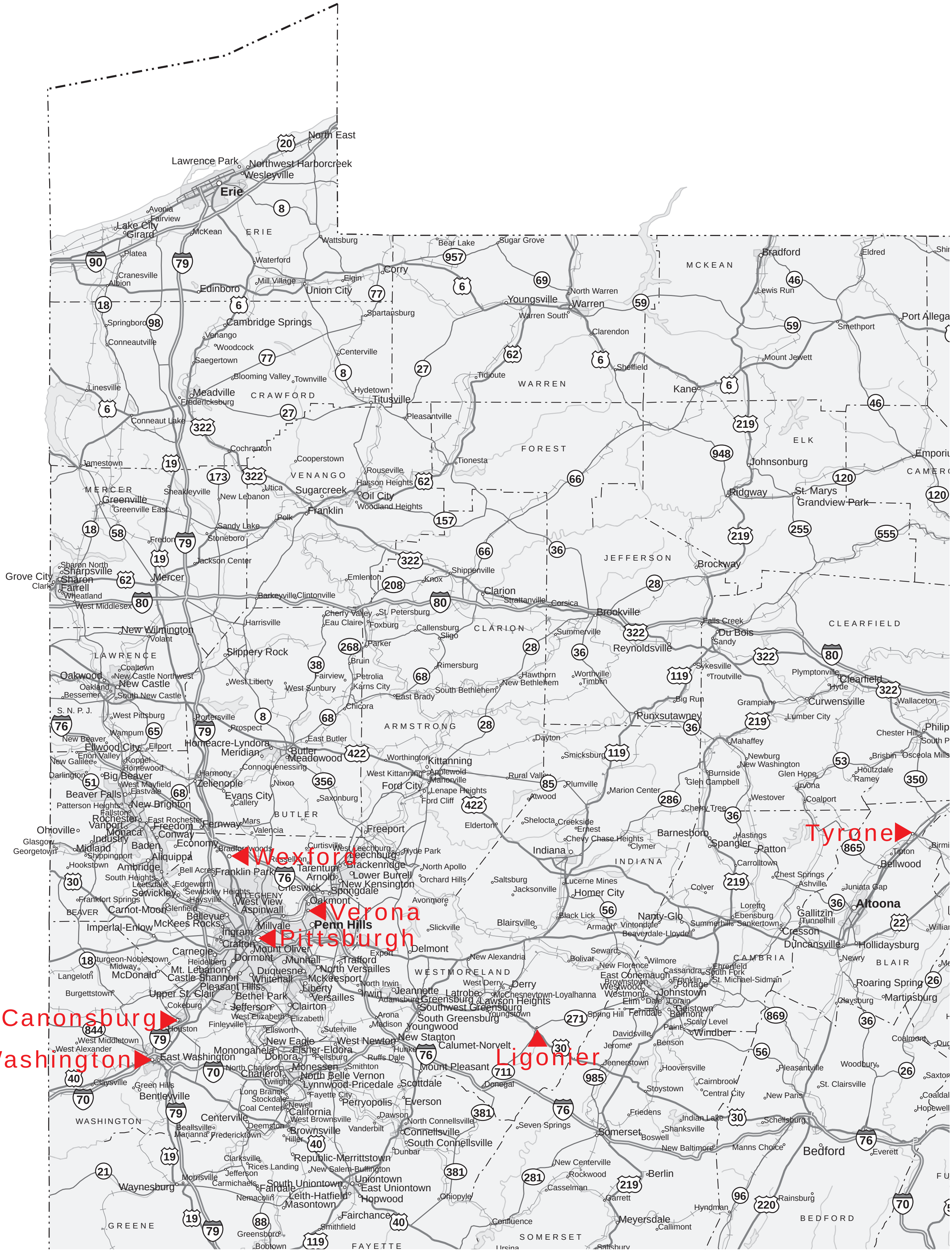
Lamm traces his fascination with traffic signals to his early habit of "hanging out" with electrical crews in Waynesville, North Carolina. With an affinity for "electrical things," he repaired his first radio while in the first grade. He rebuilt the night light system for the First Presbyterian Church in Marysville, California, "while I was still riding a bicycle. And when PG&E was phasing out the old incandescent street lights, my neighbor and I would ride our bikes over to the city dump and buy the discarded lights for 50 cents each, then fix them up and sell them for $7.50." So yes, "I guess I have always been a tinkerer," Lamm humbly conceded.

After retiring from his career as a firefighter, Lamm spotted an "old beat-up four-way traffic signal on eBay." Intrigued, he put in a bid and won the auction. "I restored it and got hooked," thereby beginning a pattern of seeking signals in "rough shape" and taking them back to working order, including his oldest three-color signal, one that dates back to 1927.

These days, his collection is not limited to the early three-light signals that first intrigued him. In addition to walk/don't walk signs, a fire station warning signal, and two-color signals, Lamm is also the proud owner of a beacon with a patent date of 1909. "Old traffic signals, antique fire hydrants, street lights no longer found on the

See Traffic Lights on page 112

PENNSYLVANIA - Section 2 Southwestern



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Traffic Lights

From Page 110

streets, and even older fire-rescue apparatus just fall into my sweet spot," he explained.

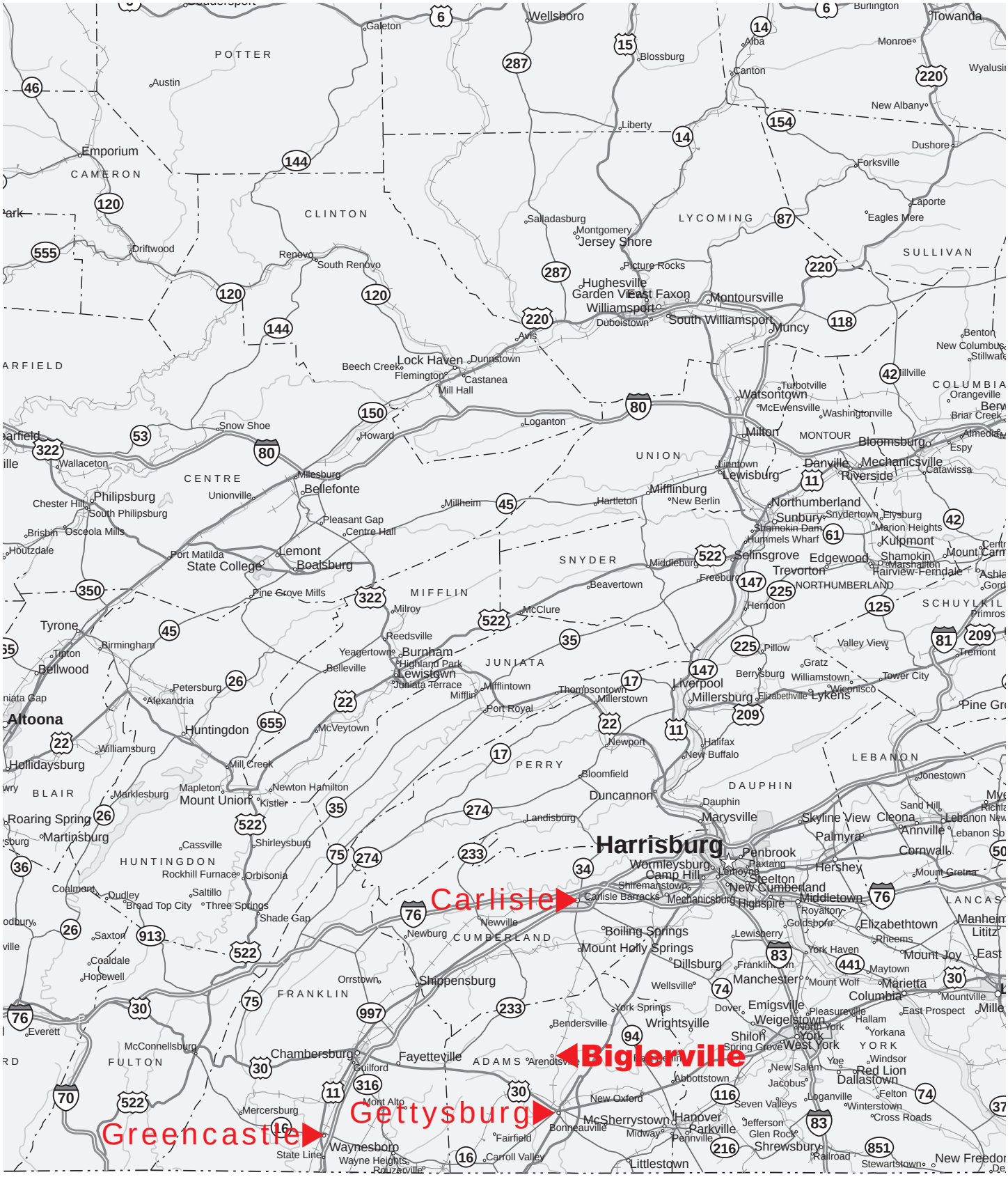
Over the years, Lamm has shared his collection, having rented out examples to serve as props on television shows and in movie scenes ("it was fun until the attorneys got involved"). These days, he serves as the field supervisor of a technical rescue team, all the while enjoying the feeling of satisfaction from refurbishing what might otherwise languish in a landfill or on a scrap heap.

Collectors of traffic-related objects each have their own strategy, setting the boundaries on what they want to acquire ("there is no single path"). For himself, Lamm continues to look for "something that is undervalued," relishing the challenge of restoration. And although he has been known to trade with other collectors, "I almost always keep what I restore."

His earliest acquisitions, often common examples, were free for the taking. The highest price he has ever paid for a traffic signal was $1,500 for a rare piece that was found in great condition. But he said that he has made significant additions to his collection with examples selling for $500. Lamm added that even though there are a few really rare and collectable single-face signals, in general, "the more desirable ones are fixed four-ways." Popular manufacturers to look for, he suggested, are Crouse-Hinds (although the older

See Traffic Lights on page 115

PENNSYLVANIA - Section 3 South Cental



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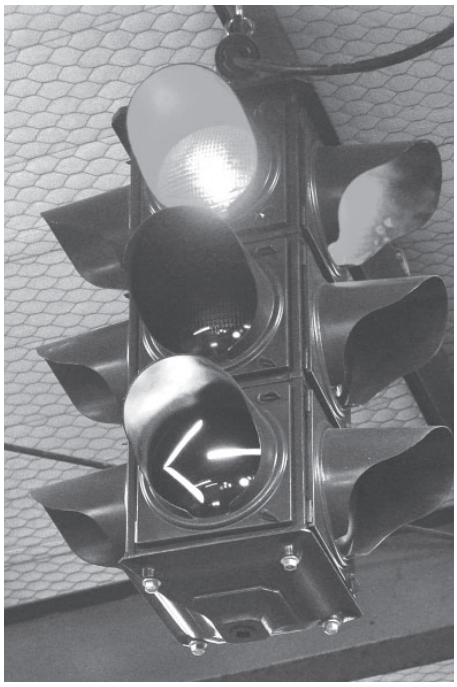
Traffic Lights

From Page 112

ones can be a challenge to restore) and the more common Eagle Signals, which he called good "starter" signals.

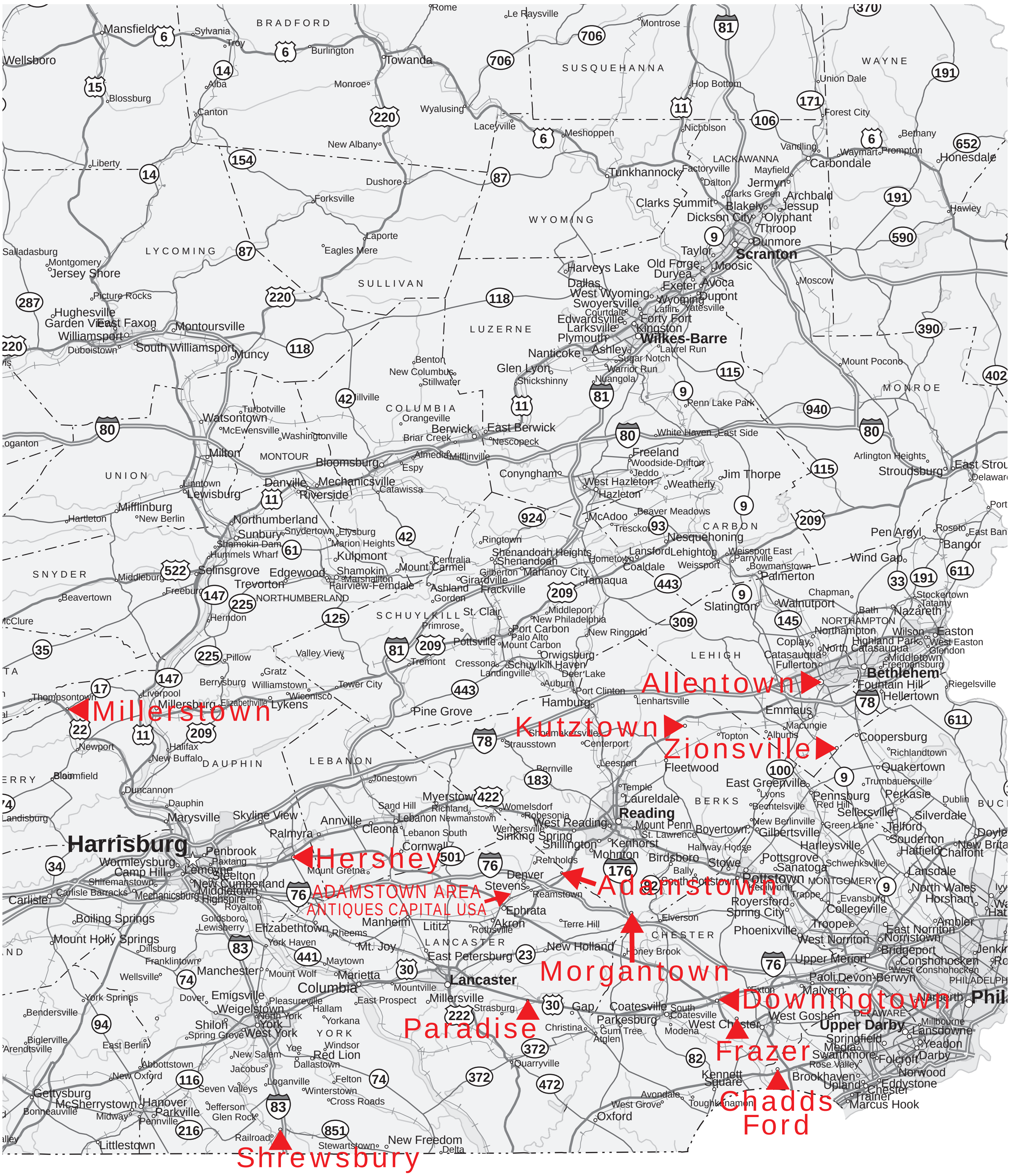
As for what he considers to be his "holy grail" of traffic signals, Lamm pointed to a 1927 Harrington-Seaburg with the clear down light to illuminate the traffic policeman at night. He has "a fondness" for his first Crouse-Hinds fixed four-way, even though it was "a nightmare to restore." And then there's a 1930s Darley "three-bulb" four-way from Atlanta that a colleague found at a church yard sale in South Carolina.

Finally, Lamm said that he and fellow collectors are always proud when they successfully encourage a city or town to incorporate vintage "street furniture" in an historic streetscape. He recommends that beginners interested in pursuing a collection of traffic signals check out "Highway Divides," a knowledgeable and helpful online interest group. And for the record, except for those examples in his shop building, there are no traffic signals in Stagecoach, Nevada, which Lamm calls "home."



Above: Facing the minor street, the lower section of this two-color signal had a walk indication.

PENNSYLVANIA - Section 4 Southeastern



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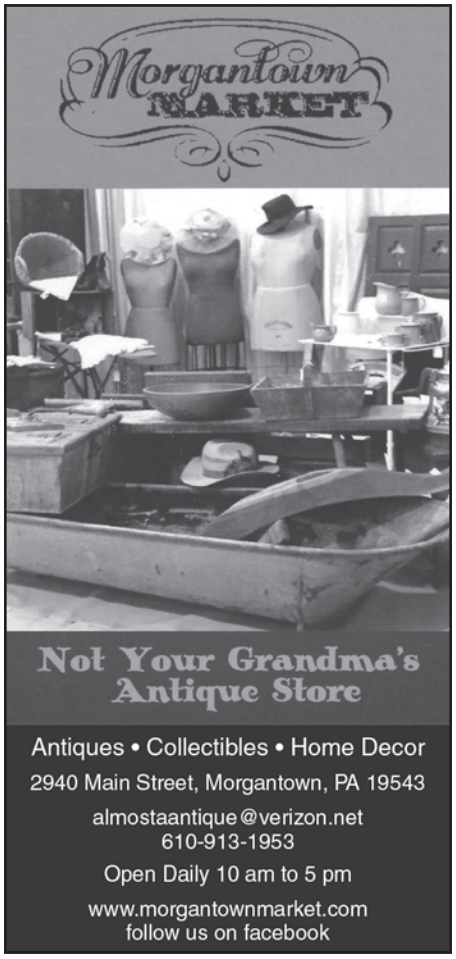

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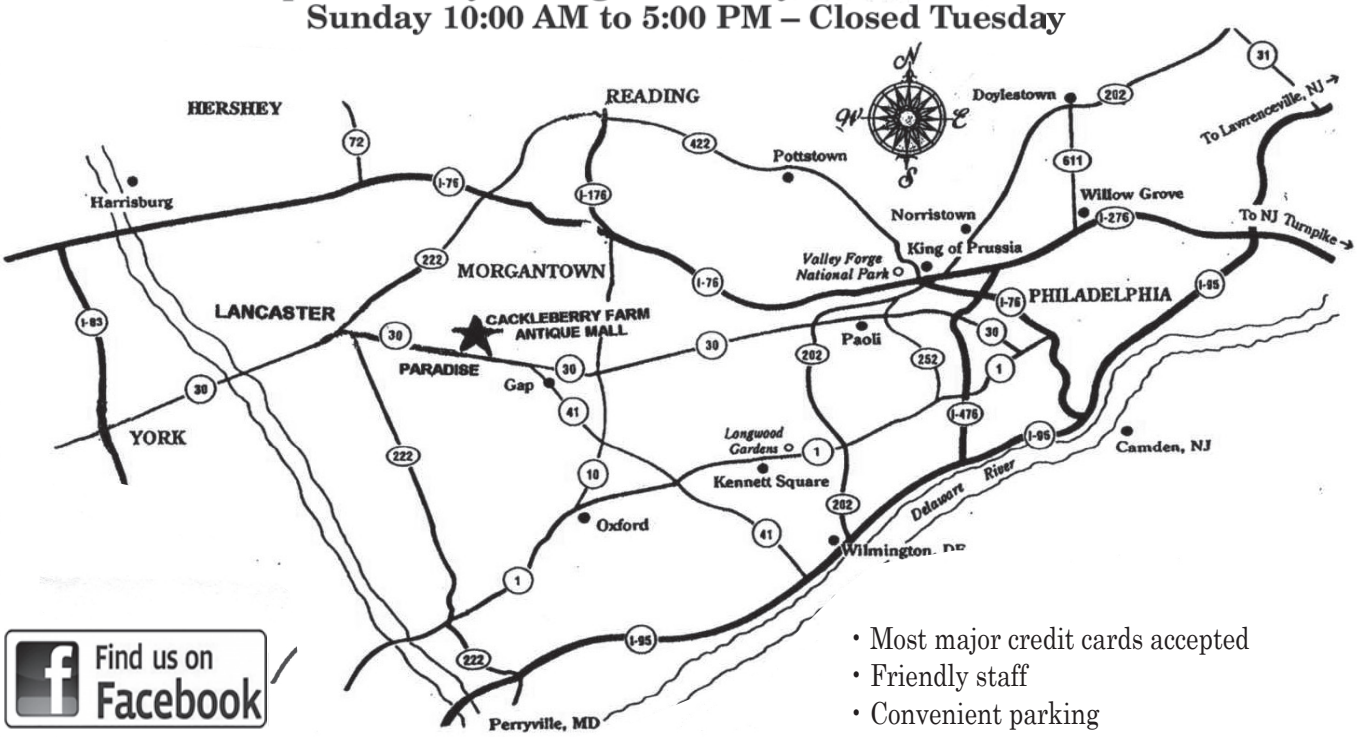

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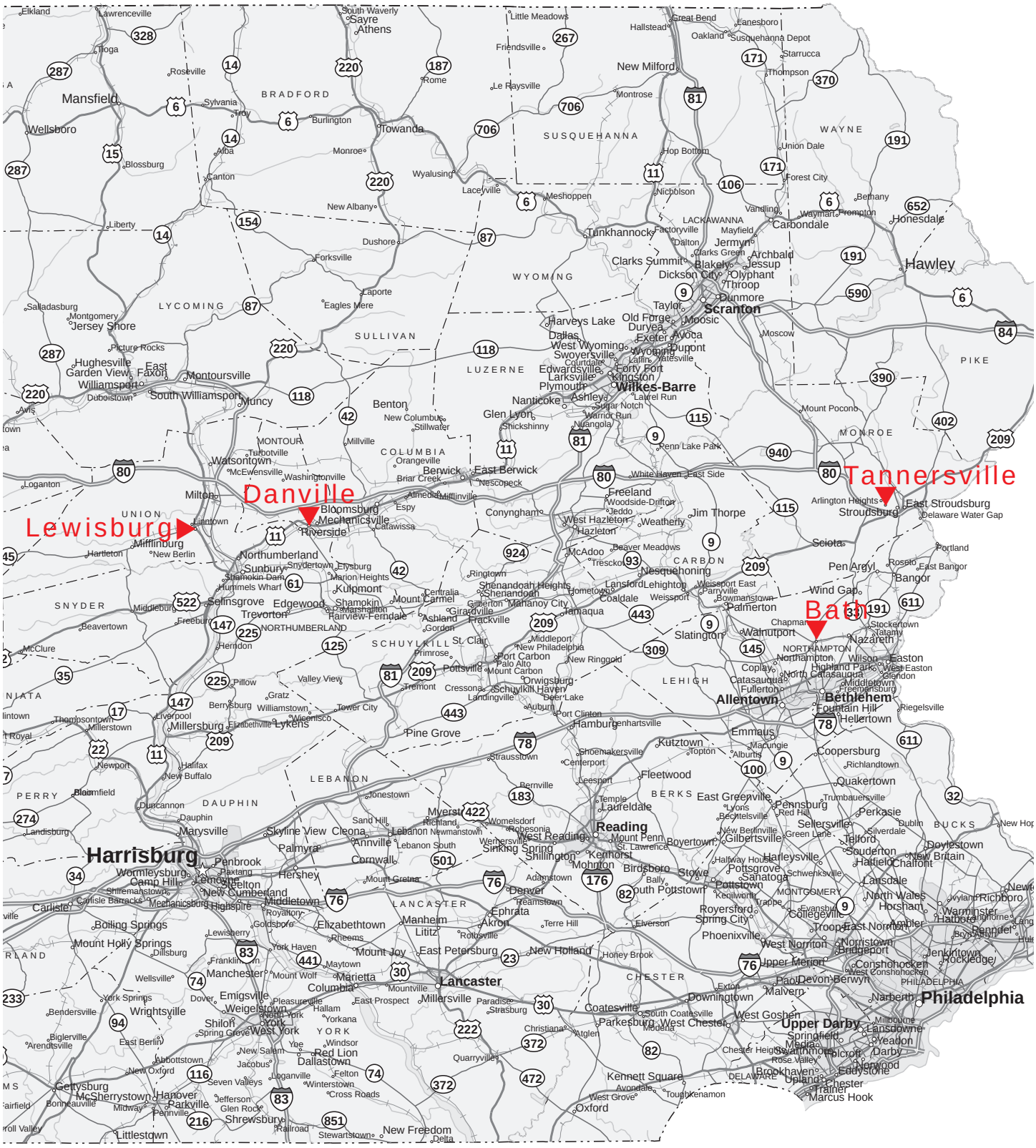

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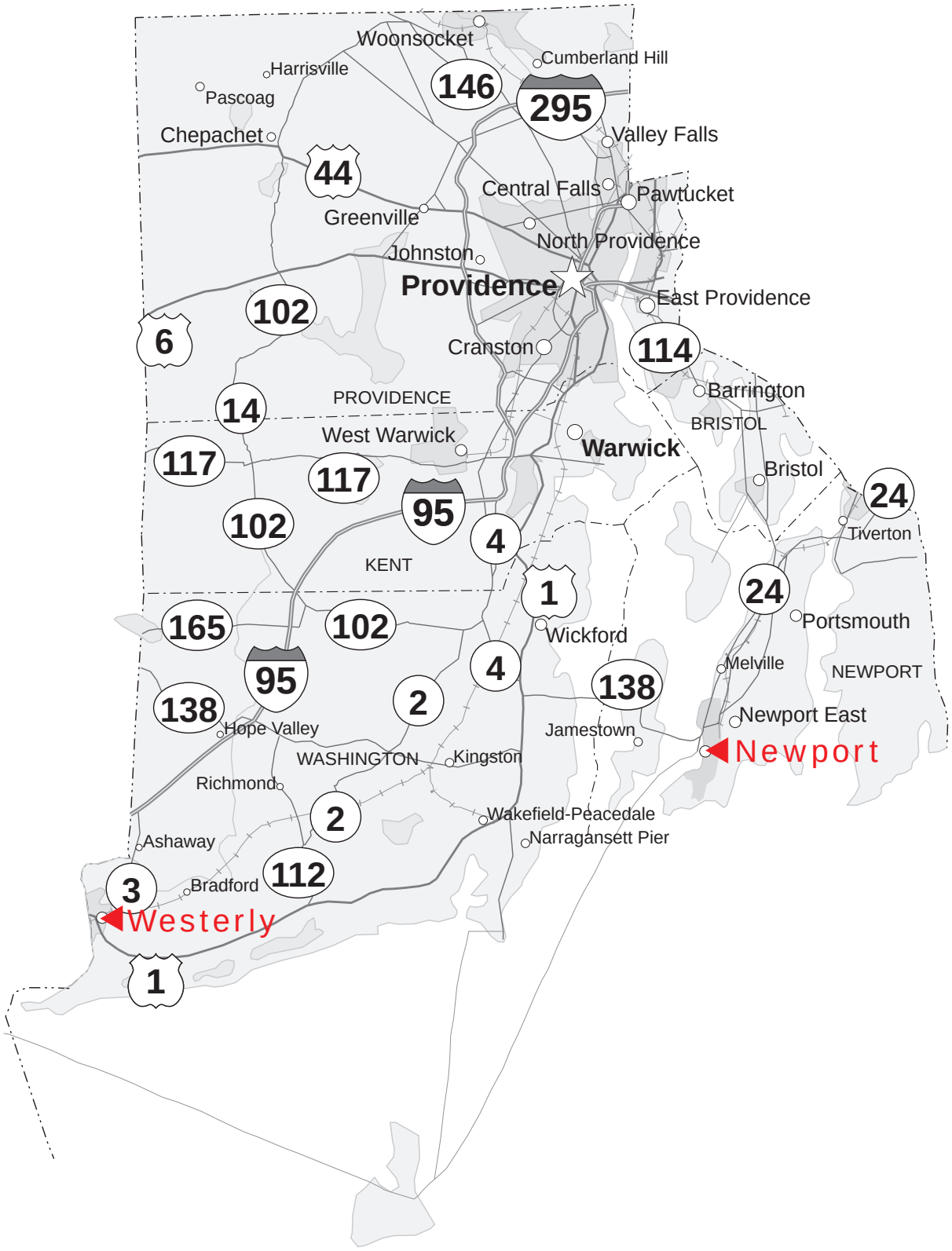

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Above: This Feed the Goose mechanical bank was designed by Douglas Hall of Chicago in 1928. It was made for the Bankers Thrift Corp. of Chicago as a bank premium given to children to teach the value in saving. It sold recently for $700.

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Mechanical banks made collecting coins very fun

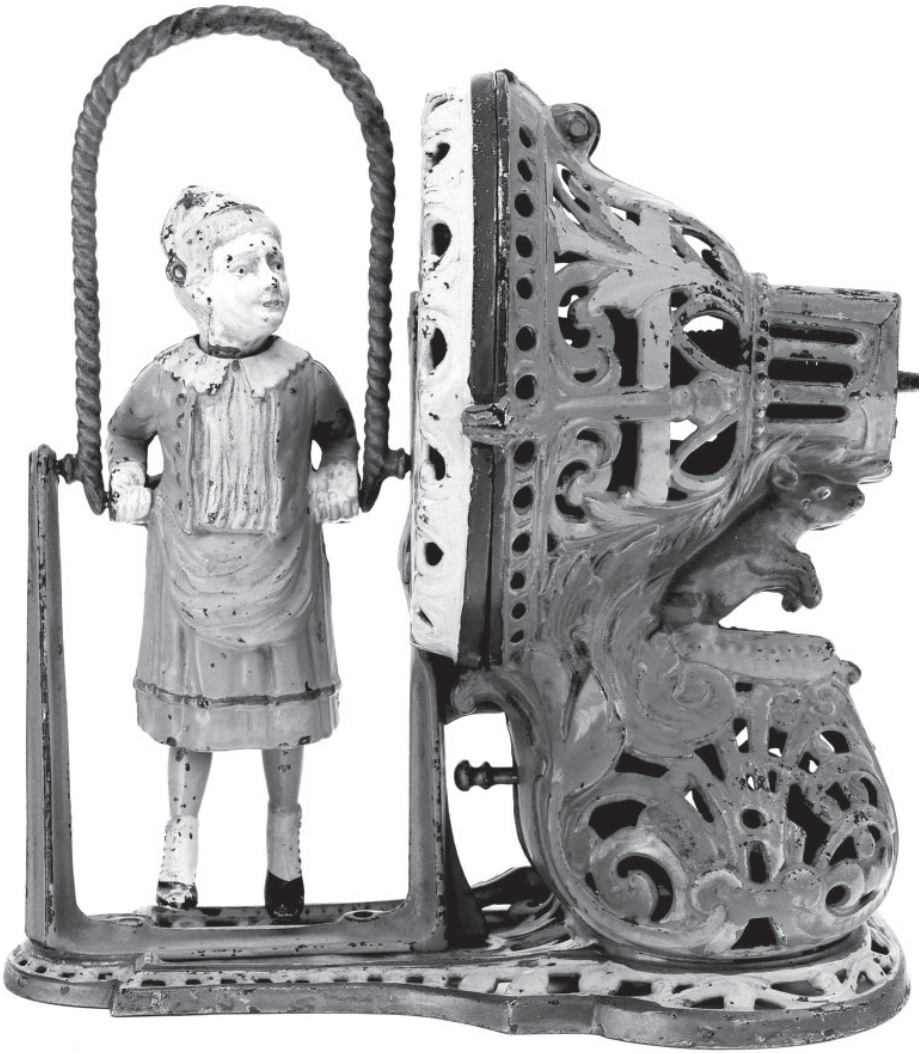
BY DOUG GRAVES

Antique mechanical banks make the act of saving money fun. Insert a coin, push a lever, and watch the action play out. The coin might be fired into a fort from a cannon, placed into an animal's mouth before being swallowed, or put in a man's hand for him to slide into his pocket. Other mechanical bank actions prompted human and animal figures to kick, jump, dance and do headstands.

The earliest mechanical banks appeared just after the Civil War in 1869 when a man named James Serrill applied for the first-of-its-kind patent. The idea was to encourage kids to save money by making coins disappear in an engaging way. Serrill's banks were made of wood and really didn't do much, but it was enough to get the ball rolling.

Serrill's first mechanical bank was called Bureau. This simple wooden

SEE MECHANICAL BANKS ON PAGE 129



Above: This Girl Skipping Rope mechanical bank sold for $73,800 at Morphy Auctions in 2021. Made by J. & E. Stevens, these banks were extremely colorful. The coin is placed on the green area just below the squirrel. A lever near the girl's feet starts the girl swinging, and the coin is deposited in the bank. (photo submitted)

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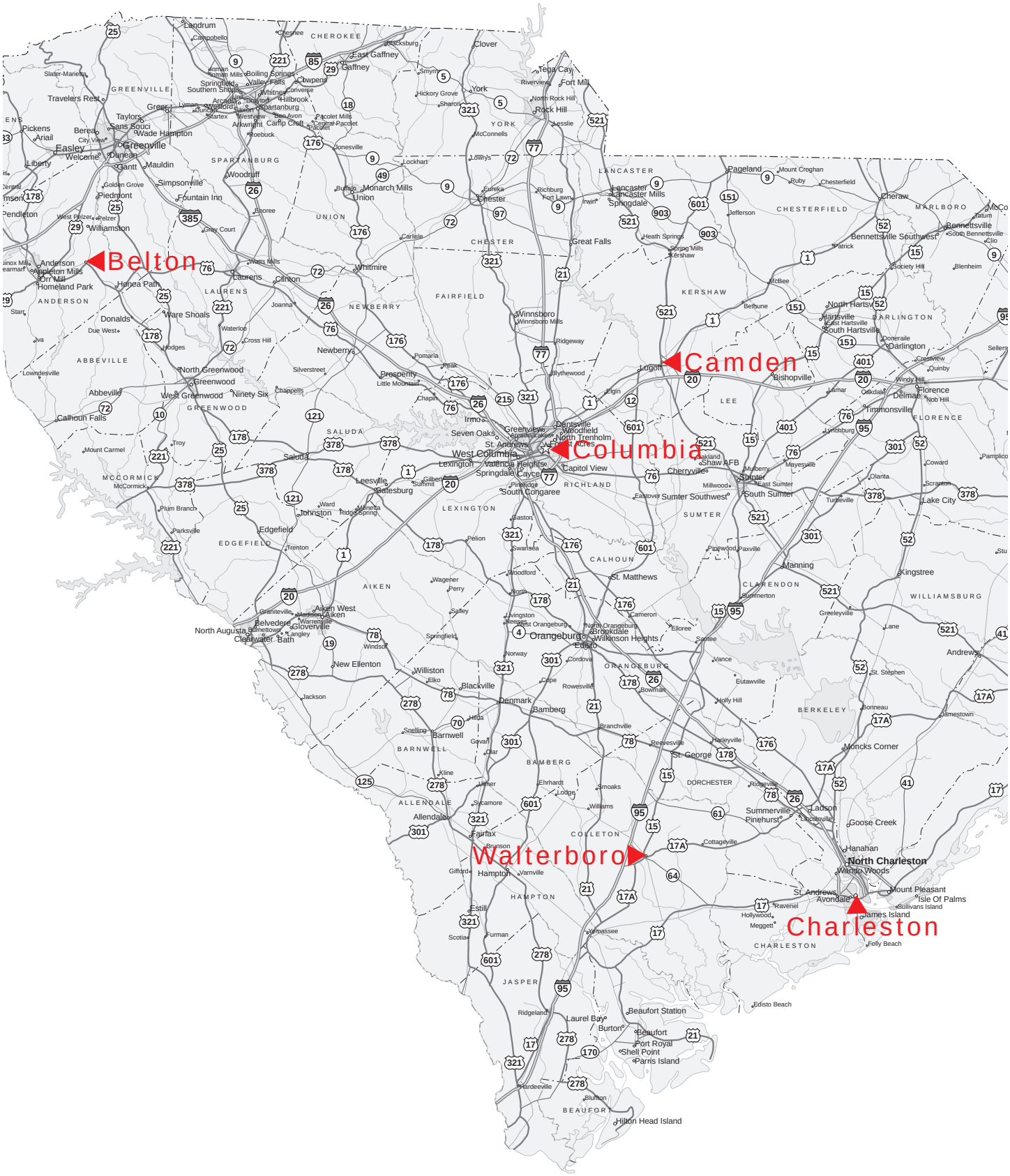

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Banks

From Page 126

device required the user to place a coin in a drawer. When the drawer was closed, the coin was deposited into the holding compartment inside. The same year, the first patent was issued for a cast-iron mechanical bank, Hall's Excelsior. In that device, a coin was placed on a cashier's desk on top of the bank, and the weight of the coin caused the figure to drop into the bank building below.

As the 19th century came to an end, advances in assembly line production and the increasingly widespread use of cast-iron made such banks widely available. Indeed, the Golden Age of mechanical banks extends from 1870 to 1930 and reflects both the imagination and workmanship of the era.

In America, there were three principal makers: J.E. Stevens (Cromwell, Conn.), Kyser & Rex (Frankford, Pa.) and Shepard Hardware (Buffalo, N.Y.).

J. & E. Stevens (1888-1898) was the

See Mechanical Banks on page 132

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Above: From Shepard Hardware is this cast-iron Punch & Judy mechanical bank. When the spring on the side is set and a coin placed in the bin, the trigger can be pushed which will cause the coin to be deposited and hit the other character with his stick. It measures about 6 ¼ inches tall. (photo submitted)

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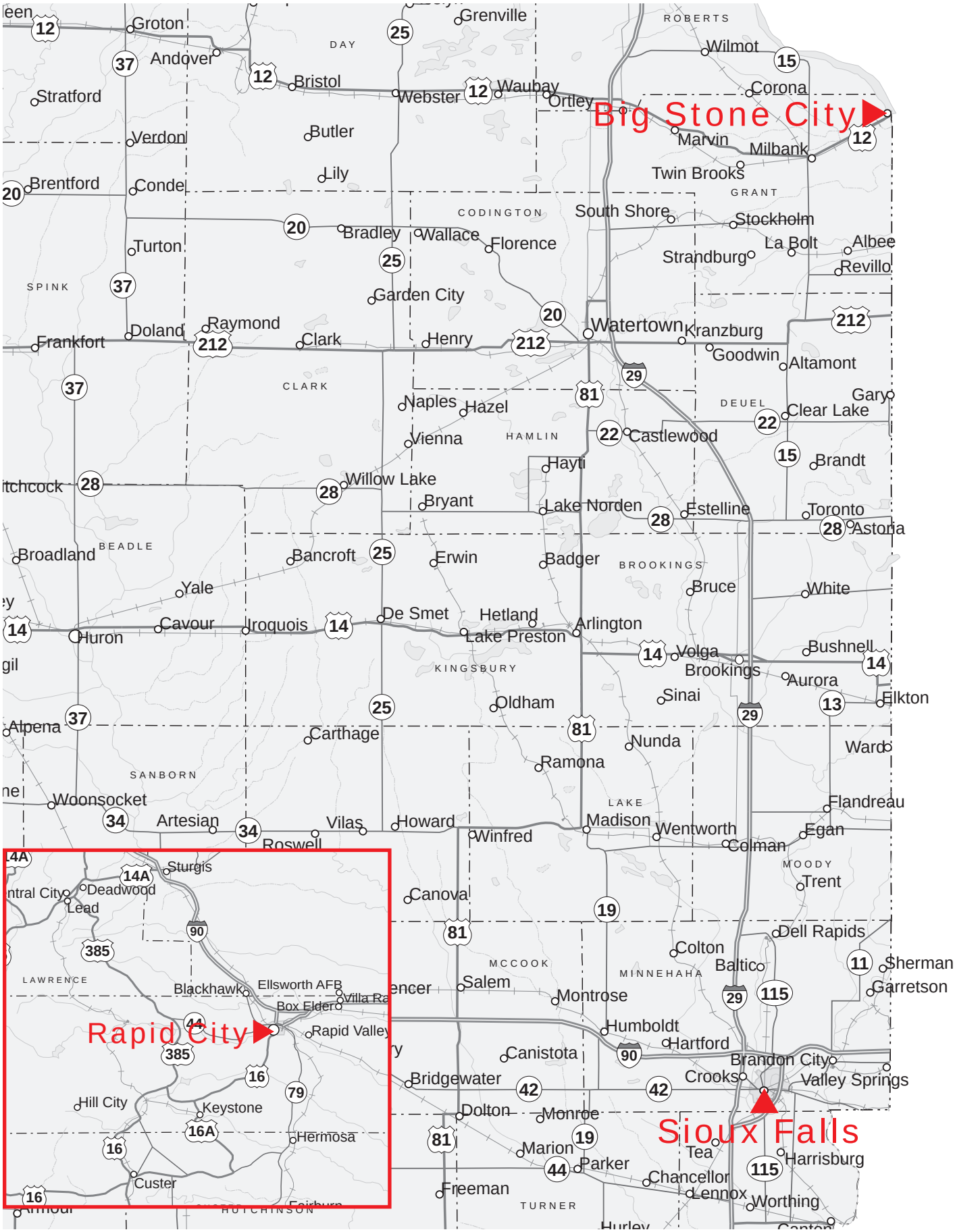

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Below: This "Trick Dog" cast-iron mechanical bank was made by the Hubley Manufacturing Company in Lancaster, Pa., in 1920. Hubley purchased the rights for this bank from the Shepard Hardware company in 1906. To operate, one would place a penny in the dog's mouth, release the lever at the bottom right, the dog jumps through the hoop being held by the clown, and the dog deposits the coin into the barrel. The bank measures 9 ¾ inches long, 3 1/8 inches wide and 7 ¼ inches high. (photo submitted)

Banks

FROM PAGE 129

largest mechanical bank maker of the three. The company was responsible for 50 mechanical banks at that time. They made some of the best action mechanical banks and they made banks that were extremely colorful.

Kyser & Rex (1879-1899) left behind a treasure trove of mechanical and still toy banks that collectors clamored for during their years. The company's mechanical banks have fetched over $100,000 at auction, but common examples in well-work condition can be found for under $100.

Shepard Hardware (1882-1892) produced 15 quality banks in that decade and theirs was known for unsurpassed attention to detail in their paint jobs. The company name was embossed on each bank and were known for their heavy weight for their size.

Those three, plus a few others from Europe, cranked out mechanical banks of every description. In Europe, similar banks were made by tin-toy manufacturers such as Bing and Saalheimer & Strauss.

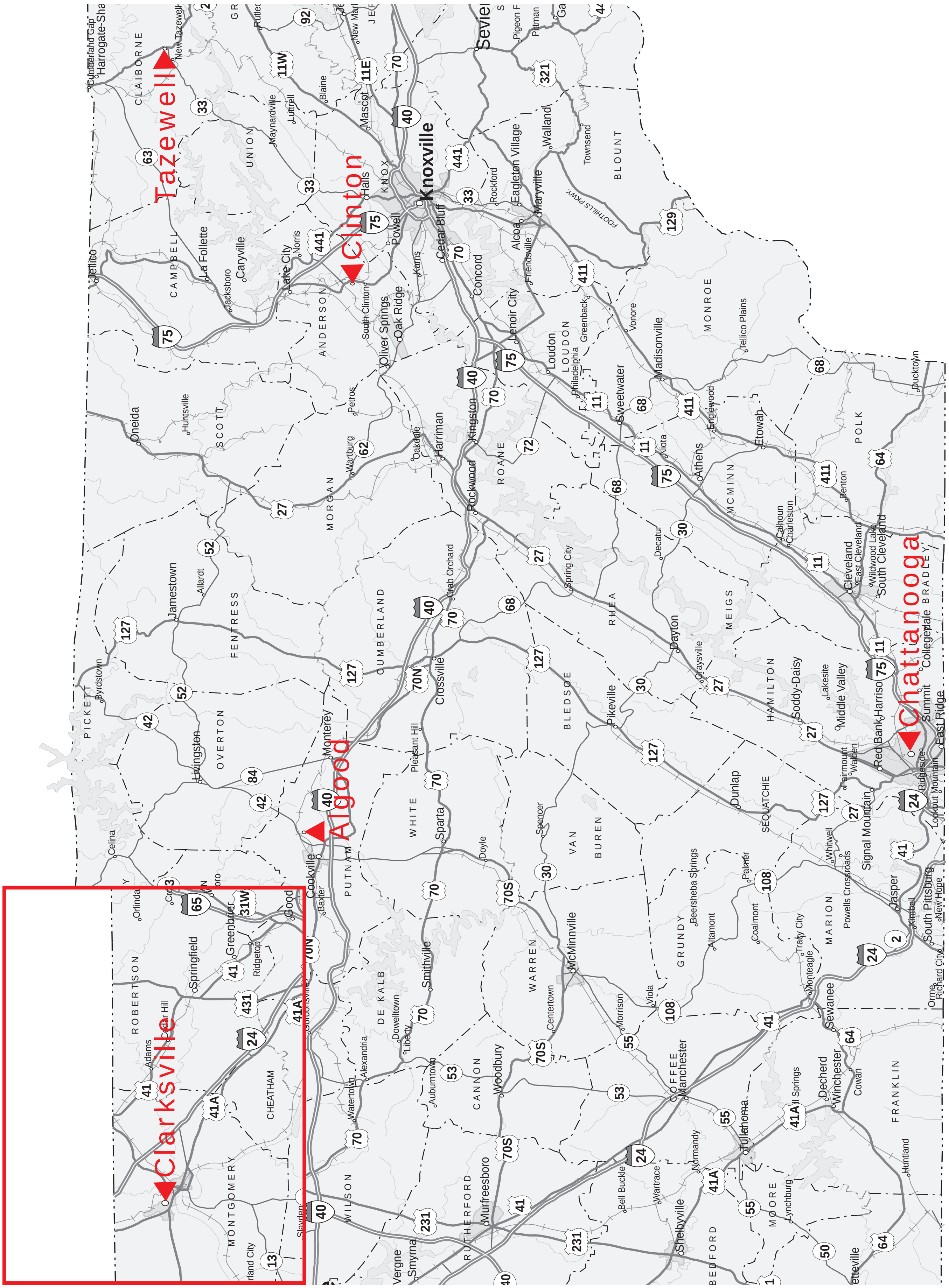
The Bread-Winners Bank, designed in 1886 and inspired by John Hay's 1883 book Bread Winners, about the conflicts between monopolies and labor, is a particularly fascinating example. One side represented monopoly, with a "rascal" holding a club. To his right was a money bag with "boodle" or a crooked politician emerging out of it. The other side featured a worker holding a hammer over the loaf of bread that holds the coins.

The action of the bank required the saver to place a coin in the rascal's club and flip a lever to the laborer, sending the money into the worker's "bread" and the rascal into the air. It represented labor delivering a blow to monopoly, dislodging corrupt money, and distributing it to the workers.

Some banks, though, were simply intended to convey the wonder and innocence of childhood, like the Speaking Dog Bank and Girls Skipping

SEE MECHANICAL BANKS ON PAGE 136

TENNESSEE - 1 Section



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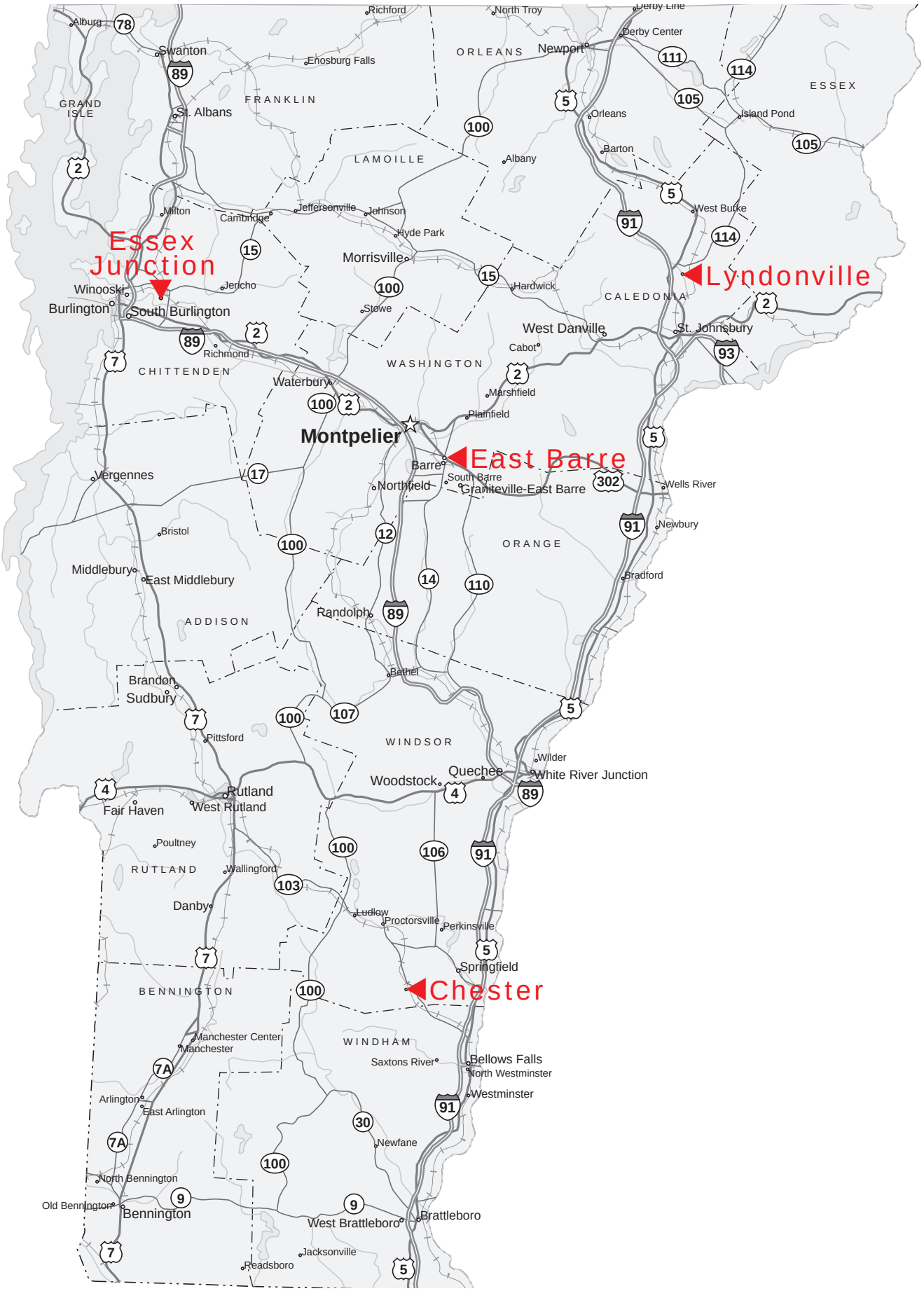
VERMONT - 1 Section



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Above: This Boy on Trapeze mechanical bank was produce in 1888 by J. Barton Smith Co. It stands 9 ½ inches tall and 5 inches long. This bank contains its original paint and has no chips or cracks. Asking price is $2,800. (photo submitted)

Banks

FROM PAGE 132

Rope Bank. The Alligator in Trough Bank required blowing and sucking on a pipe to make an alligator emerge from its den to snatch a coin. Depositing a coin into the Clown on Globe Bank prompted a clown to dance and do a headstand. The Bill E. Grin bust bank was a spoof on the Billiken, the Chinese god that watches over children and brings good luck.

Other popular banks featured scouts raising a flag (Boy Scout Bank), a monkey springing toward an organ grinder (Monkey Bank), Punch hitting Judy (Punch & Judy Bank), a dentist extracting a tooth (Dentist Bank), a frog leaping out of a pond (Chief Big Moon Bank), William Tell firing a gun, a moving merry-go-round with sound, using the same player-piano technology used in music boxes.

Cast-iron mechanical banks have been popular with collectors for decades, and the prices prove it. It is rare to find an authentic mechanical bank for less than a hundred dollars these days, and most of them top $1,000 when sold at auction. Some of the rarest and most desirable sell form well over $10,000 and a few even top $100,000.

As an example, a cast-iron Butting Buffalo mechanical bank by Kyser & Rex Company sold for $21,850 at Morphy Auctions in 2008. That same year, a cast-iron Stump Speaker mechanical bank made by Shepard Hardware Co. sold for $10,000 at Morphy Autions.

"While mechanical banks are popular collectibles, there are many, oh so many, fakes and reproductions," said Dr. Lori Verderame, renowned collectibles appraiser. "There are some authentic, period mechanical banks that have sold for nearly $250,000. So it really pays off to know if you have a fake or the real thing. What's really interesting is that some of the reproductions are worth a pretty penny, too. Even the newer reproduced mechanical banks can command very high prices in the antiques market. It's oftentimes tricky to tell the difference between an authentic mechanical bank and a later reproduction."

An example of such a reproduction is the Battling Boxers die cast-iron mechanical coin bank made by Toscano, which replicates the 1938 mechanical bank that honored the Joe Louis and Max Schmeling boxing match.

To identify banks made after the 1930s, appraisers look at the finish. Pre-1930 cast-iron banks have smoother surfaces and the painting on earlier banks tends to be more detailed.

"If they are painted over with acrylic paint, then the mechanical bank is not worth as much as if it were left alone even with flaking original paint," Verderame said. "Resist the temptation to repaint your mechanical bank.

"The surface of the cast-iron is a tell-tale sign of age and authenticity when assessing a mechanical bank. Cast-iron from the turn of the century has a smooth surface and highly detailed forms cast in the iron."

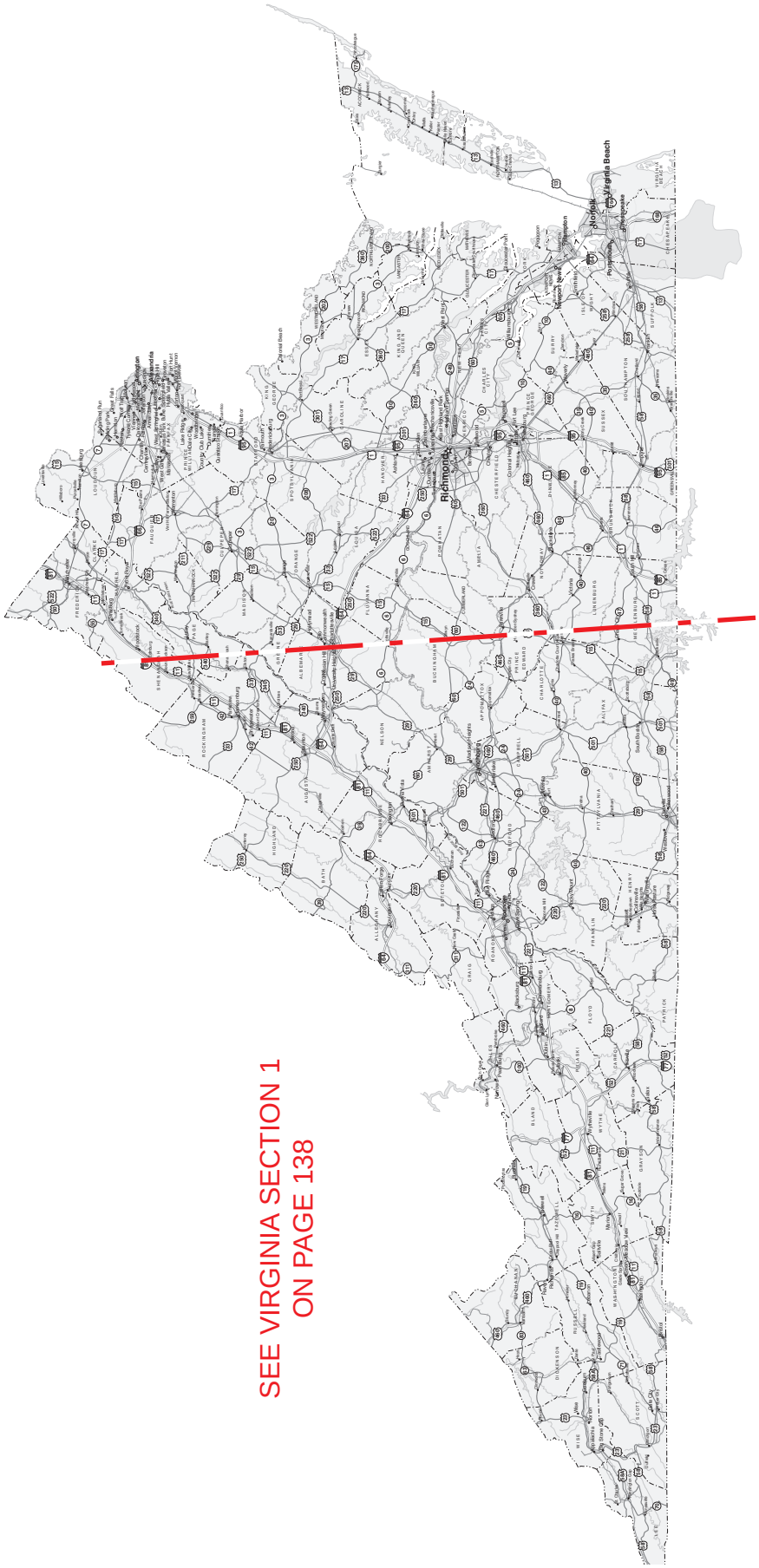
As with many other antiques, Verderama says, condition reigns supreme.

"Condition is really important when it comes to mechanical banks," Verderame said. "Repairs are common because these banks have moving parts that age and wear over time. Repairs impact the value of mechanical banks but collectors are not swayed just because a bank has been reworked."

Below: Teddy and the Bear cast iron bank. This mechanical bank was designed by Charles A. Bailey for the J. & E. Stevens Company in Cromwell, Connecticut in 1907. Asking price is $3,795. (photo submitted)

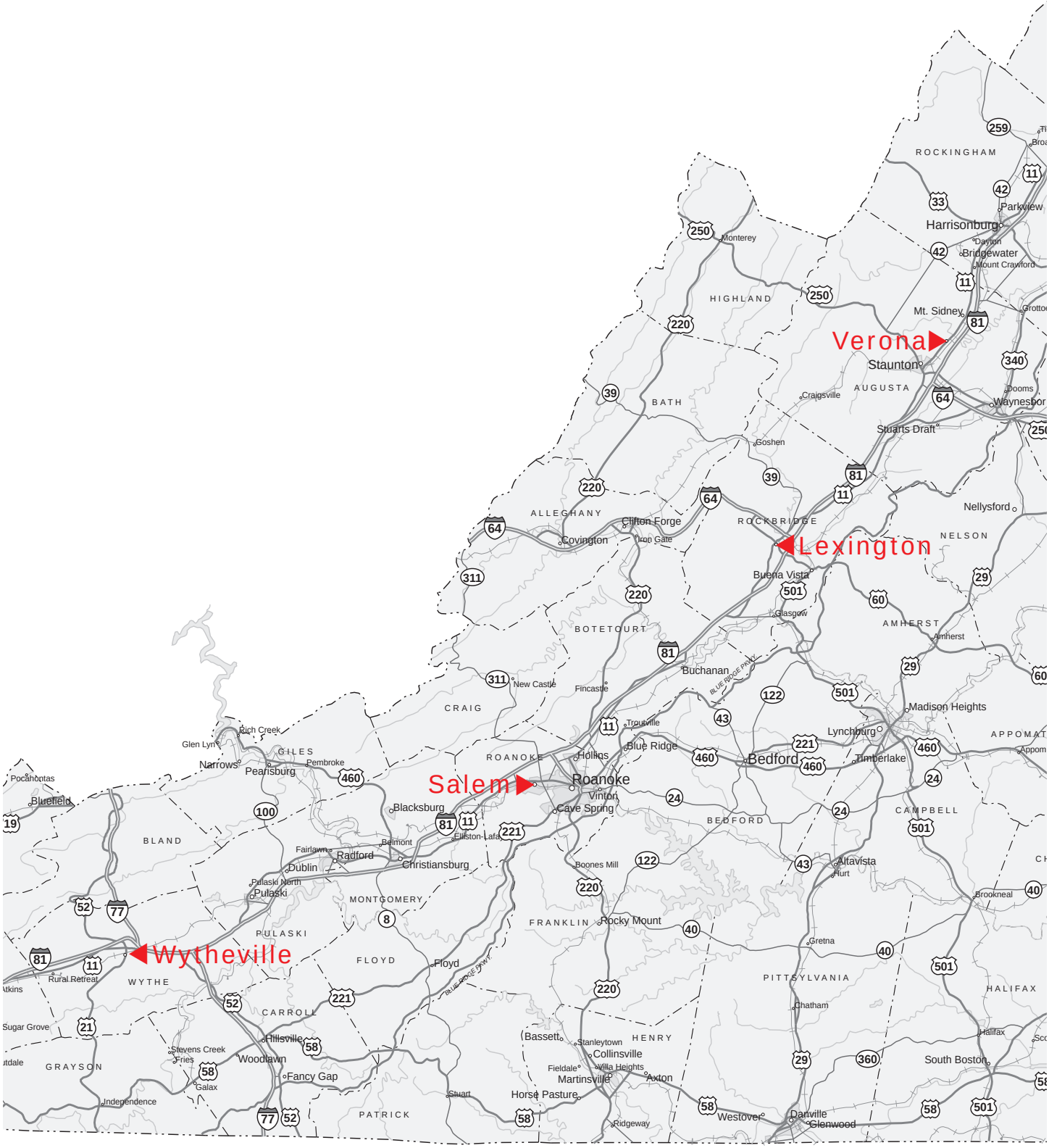
VIRGINIA - 2 SECTIONS; PAGES 137-141

SEE VIRGINIA SECTION 2
ON PAGE 140



SEE VIRGINIA SECTION 1
ON PAGE 138

VIRGINIA - Section 1 Western



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"New" antiques

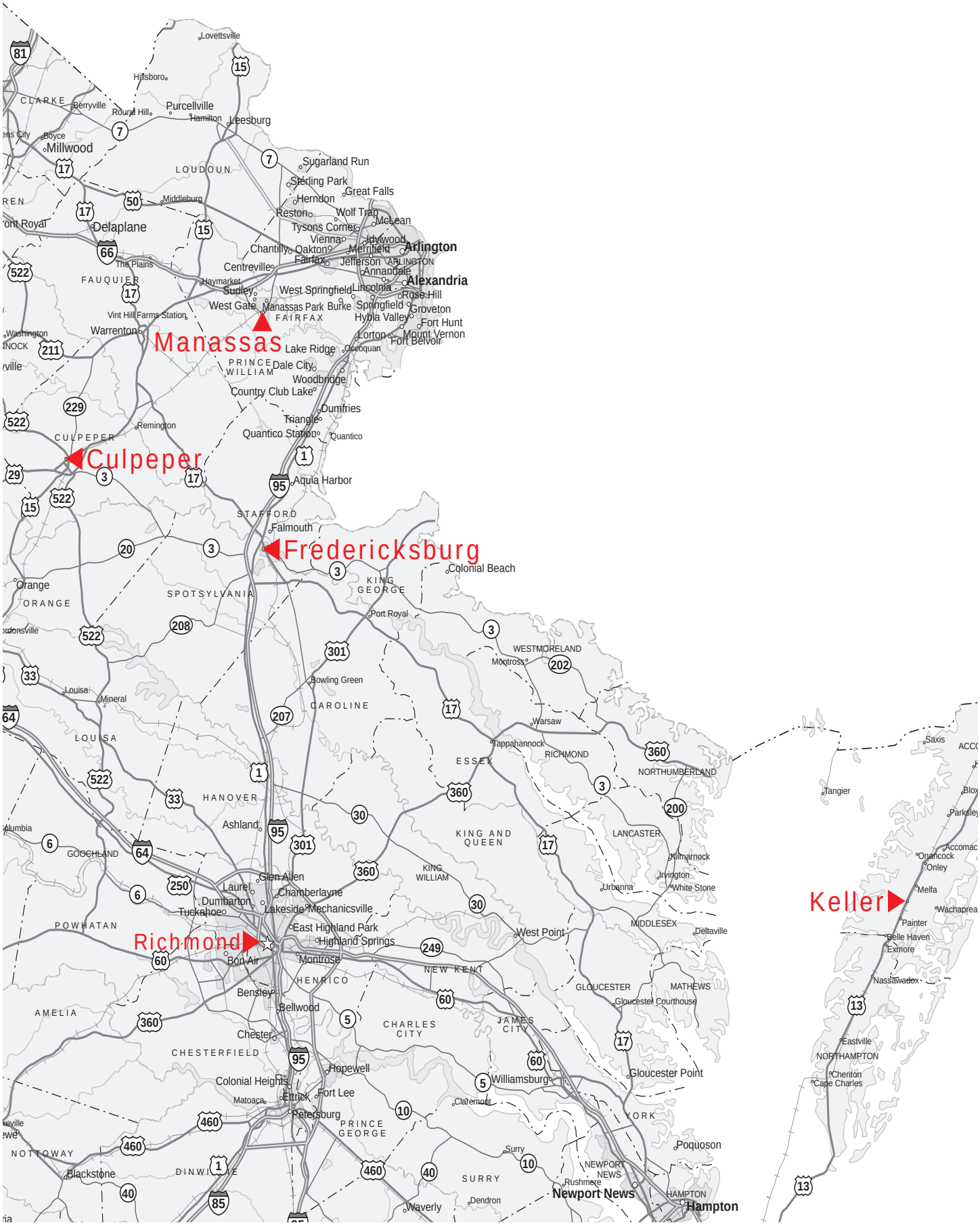
Antiques are defined as anything 100 or more years old. That means wares dating from 1924 are now officially antiques. Among these items are swanky Art Deco furnishings (there might be hope for "brown" furniture yet), as well as everyday items such as original spiral-bound notebooks and disposable paper tissues.

The silver screen

Fifty years ago, long before movie fans could stream new releases in the comfort of their own homes, the top-grossing flick was a comedy, "Blazing Saddles," described as "a satirical postmodernist Western black comedy film," directed by Mel Brooks. At the same time, two action films, "Towering Inferno" and "The Trial of Billy Jack," slotted in at numbers 2 and 3, respectively, followed by "Young Frankenstein" and "Earthquake." Two period dramas, the neo-noir "Chinatown" and "The Great Gatsby," the cinematic interpretation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's tale of the Jazz Age, were in the top 20, along with two family offerings, "Herbie Rides Again" and "Benji." Meanwhile,"The Man With the Golden Gun," a lavish production in the popular James Bond franchise, came in at a disappointing 21 in 1974. Starring Roger Moore as Bond, the movie was proclaimed to be "middling" by the critics. Evidently, moviegoers agreed.

Have a great story to tell about an antiques or collectibles find? Send information to Connie Swaim at connie@antiqueweek.com

VIRGINIA - Section 2 Northeastern



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Pixieware

Considered one of the hottest collecting trends today, Holt-Howard Pixieware continues to delight and attract collectors. Introduced in 1958 by the Howard brothers; John and Robert and Grant Holt, Pixieware combines whimsy with functionality resulting in one very desirable line of ceramic kitchen, gift, and bar ware. Pixieware is as the name implies, inexpensive ceramic items used in the kitchen and for the bar. The items are usually containers to hold some type of foodstuff or liquid; mustard, cocktail cherries, relish, even honey. What is consistent among the ware is the finial for the lid. These are in the shape of a pointy head with "ears" that stick out from each side. What is different about each finial is the expression on the face which usually indicatesa what the actual container held. Barware decanters faces appear somewhat intoxicated. One designed to hold cocktail onions has "Xs" for eyes. Containers labeled to hold jams and jellies wear a smile indicating the contents are yummy. Colorful across the board, pixieware is just plain fun!

Toleware Serving Trays

Toleware serving trays have recently enjoyed a resurgence in interest. Yes, they are functional, used at one time to serve appetizers and drinks at parties, many are highly coveted now for decorating a wall in all their floral splendor. Trays created by the company Nashco Products of New York City are quite sought-after. Nashco produced these serving trays between 1920 and 1950. Any housewife worth her entertaining salt had a couple to use while hosting get-togethers. Not to be confused with the painted black and stenciled or hand-painted trays, coffee pots and tankards of the 18th and 19th century, Nashco trays usually were rectangular or round – some with scalloped edges; other not. These trays' base color is often black, but are found in green or cream. Most are decorated with bold flowers. The edges of many wear gold pin striping. Look for the Naschco Product oval, silver and black paper label on the back of the tray, and note some of the artists who painted the trays signed them.

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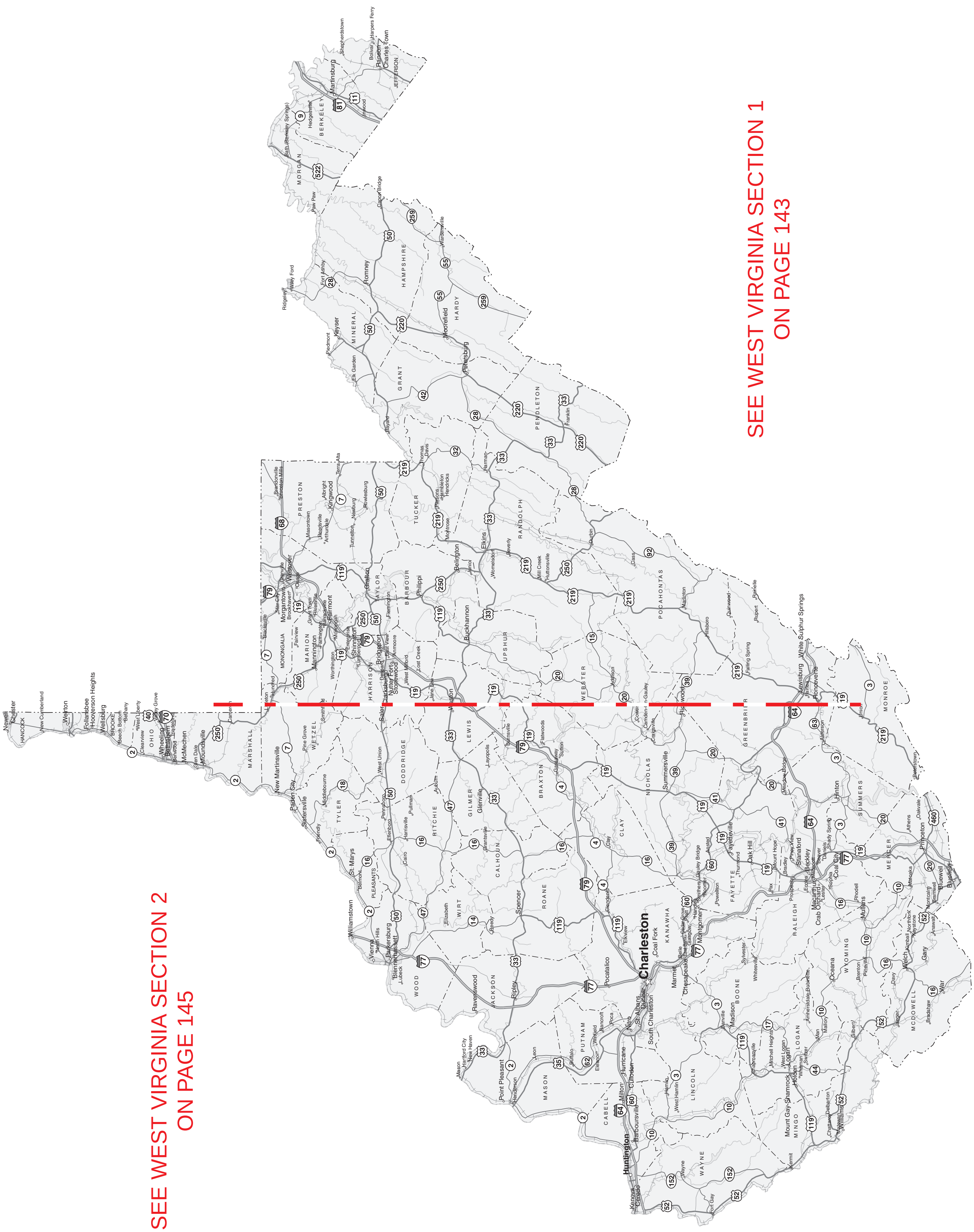
Lucite Grapes

Fun fact. Research indicates that the highly popular, groovy, chunky Lucite grape clusters were created at home via kits marketed and produced for just this purpose. Some companies eventually or maybe initially created and sold these lovely staples of any 1950s or 1960s mid-century modern décor, but reading up on their history apparently Lucite grapes were sold as kits to be done by ladies at home or crafting groups. Another fun "grape" fact – all are not created equal. Some are made of Lucite or acrylic resin. Some are made of other plastic materials, glass, travertine, marble, alabaster, or more like the ever elusive and rare uranium jadeite, agate, or slag glass. Want to give it a go? Check out this link that details how to make your own grape cluster at home. https://www.doodlecraftblog.com/2019/07/retro-craft-vintage-resin-lucite-grapes.html

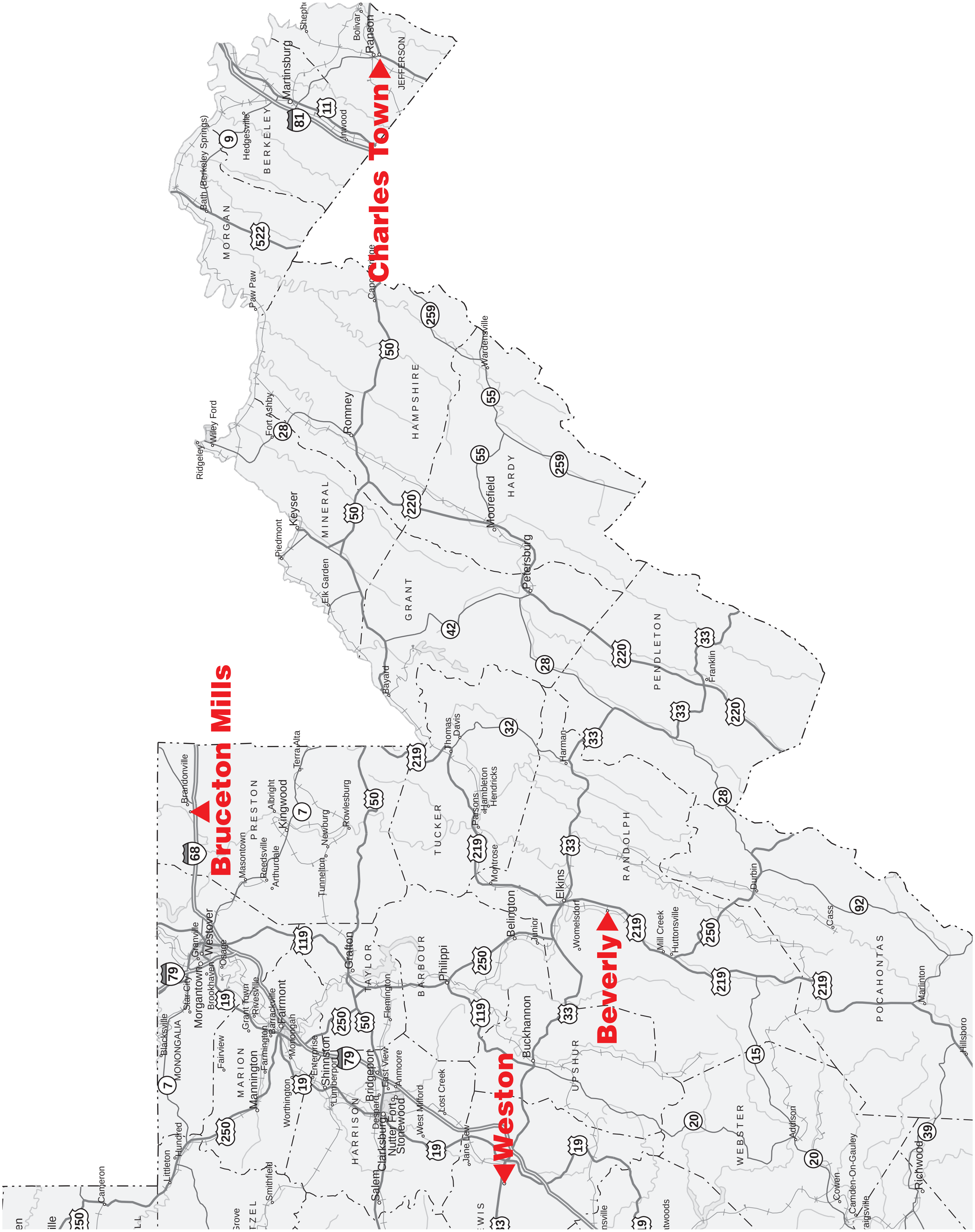
Between the covers

So what were we reading 50 years ago in 1974? Topping the list was James A. Michener's "Centennial," followed by Richard Adams' "Watership Down," and Peter Benchley's "Jaws." Next were "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy" by John le Carré, "Something Happened" by Joseph Heller, and "The Dogs of War" by Frederick Forsyth. Harold Robbins heated things up with "The Pirate." And Margaret Craven probed the meaning of life in "I Heard the Owl Call My Name."

WEST VIRGINIA - 2 SECTIONS; PAGES 142-146



WEST VIRGINIA - Section 1 Northwestern



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Hankies

Love mid-century tablecloths but short on storage space? Consider collecting decorated cloth handkerchiefs, originally marketed to women and children. A keen eye at a yard sale or thrift shop might result in a number of finds offered for just a few dollars. But be prepared to pay more for designer-signed hankies and those holiday-themed.

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A Fantastic Art Auction Record

Among the many records achieved by Heritage Auctions in 2023 was a painting by artist Frank Frazetta entitled Dark Kingdom. It was originally painted in 1976 as the cover for a Karl Edward Wagner novel Dark Crusade, which features Kane the Mystic Swordsman. However, Dark Kingdom became world-famous thanks to its use on the cover of hard rock band Molly Hatchet's 1979 album Flirtin' With Disaster.

The dynamic painting, which features a warrior in a winged helmet and flowing cloak brandishing a battle ax, has come to be one of Frazetta's most beloved works. The piece sold for $6 million at a Heritage Auctions sale on June 22, 2023—setting a new record for fantasy art.

Godzilla Turns 70

The world's favorite septuagenarian smashed his way onto the silver screen back in 1954 and hasn't stopped yet. That makes Godzilla the longest-continuously-running film franchise, according to the Guinness Book of World Records.

Godzilla has been celebrating his birthday in style, kicking off the festivities with the release of Godzilla: Minus One in December 2023. Made by Toho Studios—the original Godzilla filmmakers—the movie proves that the ultimate atomic monster is still relevant.

Of course, in the 70 years since the monster made his debut in Gojira, directed by Ishiro Honda, has inspired plenty of merchandise. There are plenty of vintage collectibles for Godzilla fans to seek, including comic books, movie posters, and toys.

European Godzilla posters are particularly rare. A 1957 Italian poster based on a gouache painting by Enzo Nistri is particularly desirable. Featuring the monster stomping through the ruins of a city, the poster sold for $12,000 at a Heritage Auctions sale on March 24, 2019.

But that's not the most expensive Godzilla poster that Heritage has sold—in July 2005, the auction house sold an original Japanese poster from the film's original 1954 run for $21,850.

Game Boy Celebrates Its 25th Birthday

Today, a lot of us play games on our phones, whether we'd like to admit it or not. But before Candy Crush or Among Us came into our lives, Nintendo brought portable gaming to the mass market with the Game Boy in 1989.

Celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, the Game Boy wasn't the first handheld gaming console. However, its affordability, durable construction, and huge catalog of games made the Game Boy a household name. Over the years, Nintendo released seven iterations of the Game Boy, including a color version in 1998.

Nintendo discontinued Game Boy production in 2003, but the quality of the system has allowed its legion of fans to continue playing. Today, video game enthusiasts can easily find original Game Boy models that still work for sale online for about $75 to $100. Many of the most iconic Game Boy titles—such as Tetris—can be found for $10 to $15 online.

However, some of the rarer games can fetch a much higher premium. You can expect to pay upwards of $4,000 for mint editions of some of the hardest-to-find titles, including Amazing Tater, Beethoven (based on the dog movie, rather than the Austrian composer), and Mega Man V.

Wild Prices for Wilde Books

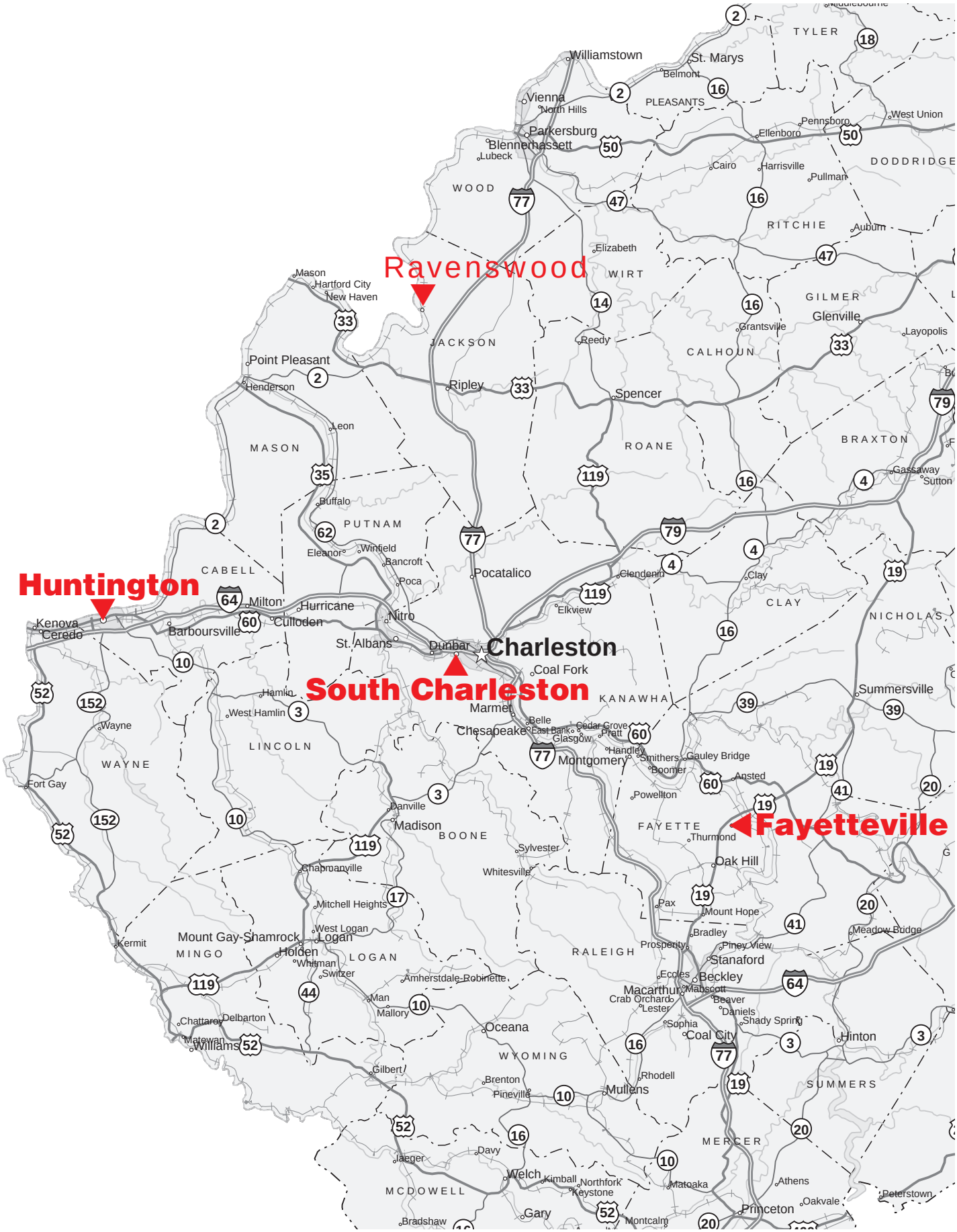
Oscar Wilde's only novel The Picture of Dorian Gray shocked audiences with its tale of decadence and decay when it was first published in Lippincott's magazine in 1890. The novel was first published in book form a year later.

Last year, a deluxe edition of Wilde's novel was sold by Shapero Rare Books on AbeBooks.com for the princely sum of $46,875. Number 115 of only 250 copies signed by Wilde himself, the edition was published in July 1891 just a few months after the first trade edition.

Meanwhile, Maggs Bros. Ltd. sold a copy of Oscar Wilde's De Profundis, which was written as a series of letters to Wilde's lover Lord Alfred Douglas. Wilde penned the letters while imprisoned in Reading Gaol for gross indecency.

The proof copy of the rare 1905 edition sold for $19,000.

WEST VIRGINIA - Section 2



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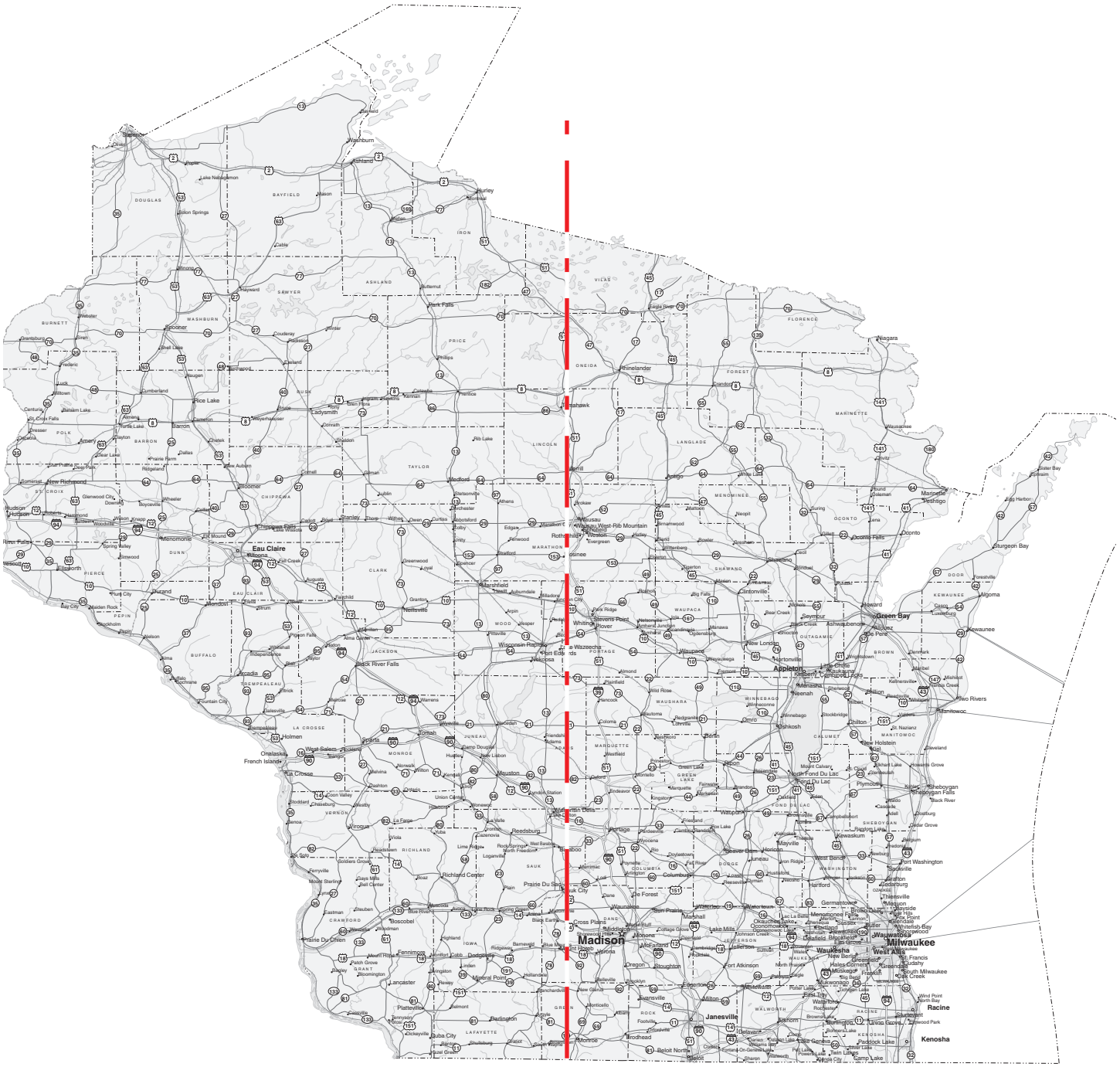
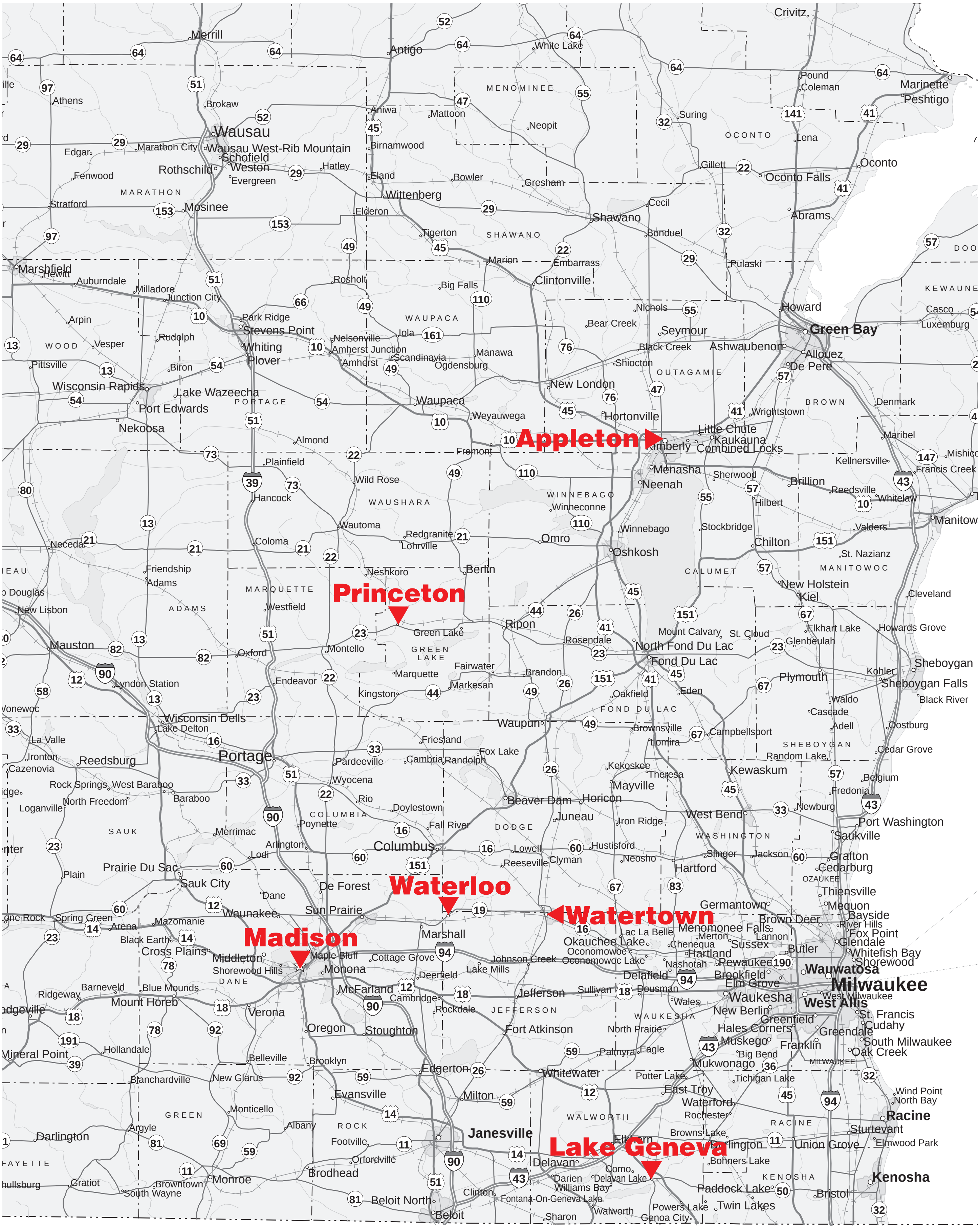
WISCONSIN - 2 SECTIONS; PAGES 147-151



SEE WISCONSIN SECTION 2
ON PAGE 150

SEE WISCONSIN SECTION 1
ON PAGE 148

WISCONSIN - Section 1 Eastern



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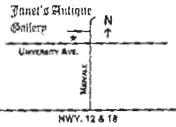

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Boo to you!

Sure, there are plenty of Christmas collectibles (and Christmas collectors), but when looking for holiday items from years gone by, don't overlook all things Halloween. Because many Halloween items were made to be used on one night only, many of them did not survive. On the other hand, this scarcity is often offset by the large number of wares offered in the second half of the 20th century. Be aware that early Halloween postcards command premium prices.

WISCONSIN - Section 2 Western

WISCONSIN - Section 2

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Nyuk, nyuk, nyuk!

If you're a fan of "The Boys" (Larry, Moe and Curly, that is), why not take a trip down memory lane and immerse yourself in all things Three Stooges at the Stoogeum. Opened in 2004 in Ambler, Pennsylvania, the Stoogeum is a 10,000-square-foot, three-story structure that houses nearly 100,000 Stooge-related artifacts. "Soitenly," there is a gift shop. Even after all these years (the zany slapstick act dates from the 1920s), Stooge fans, overwhelmingly male, still can't get enough of the wacky trio, one that underwent several changes of personnel until the final curtain dropped on the act. There's plenty to collect. But there are limits to how far devoted fans can go: Permission for having their ashes scattered at the Stoogeum have been turned down.

New vintage

While 1984 might feel like only yesterday, it's generally agreed that those things dating from 40 years ago are now considered to be "vintage." After that sinks in, let the games begin: It may well be time to collect all things related to Muppet Babies and Cabbage Patch preemies, Rainbow Brite and Transformers.

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Peachy keen!

Marking the 25th annual selection of its "Color of the Year," the Pantone Color Institute has chosen "Peach Fuzz" for 2024. Lovers of old things can embrace this color, described as a "light, delicate shade that sits between pink and orange." In other words, it's a flattering hue, one that "expresses the desire to nurture kindness, compassion, and connection—all while fostering a deep coziness as we seek a peaceful future." When looking to embrace Peach Fuzz in the home, think Hollywood Regency (thanks, Dorothy Draper!) and all things "Miami Vice." Any doubts that the Pantone Color of the Year is more than a random choice were dashed last year, when "Viva Magenta," which looked a lot like Barbie pink, was similarly honored.

Hello Kitty

So cute: Although she's as adorable as ever, Hello Kitty is not exactly a sweet young thing. Created 50 years ago, it was not until the following year, 1975, that she made her public debut. Originally pictured on a vinyl coin purse, she was intended to appeal to pre-teen girls. It didn't stop there as, soon afterwards, she gained popularity among older fans. Over the years, Hello Kitty has been featured in an animated series targeted towards children, as well as in several comics, animated films, video games, books, music albums, and other media productions. Fans have a wide variety of collectibles from which to choose, with school supplies and clothing, accessories and toys just a small sampling of what has been marketed.

Play time!

As is its annual tradition, The Strong Museum of Play in Rochester, NewYork, inducted several classic toys into its Toy Hall of Fame late last year. Winners, chosen in part by the public, were baseball cards and Cabbage Patch Kids, Nerf toys and Fisher-Price's Corn Popper. Finalists not making the final cut were four games (Battleship, bingo, Connect 4, and Bop It!), Slime, the Little Tikes Cozy Coupe, books ("Choose Your Own Adventure" gamebooks), and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. And even though Barbie was inducted into the Toy Hall of Fame in 1998, this year, her beau, whose job is self-described as "beach," was not "Kenough."

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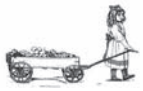
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Other than Mickey

There he goes again. . .Mickey Mouse grabbed the headlines earlier this year when his earliest images entered the public domain. But Mr. Mouse was not the only pop culture icon to undergo this change in status. Tigger (Winnie-the-Pooh's bestie), Peter Pan, the Hercule Poirot novel "The Mystery of the Blue Train" by Agatha Christie, and the silent film "The Circus" starring and directed by Charlie Chaplin also joined the ranks. Feel like breaking out in a celebratory song? It's open season on Cole Porter's "Let's Do It, Let's Fall in Love."

Viking Glass

Like many glass and pottery companies, Viking Glass came about as the result of another company's demise. Established in 1900, the New Martinsville Glass Company did okay until the Great Depression. On the verge of closing its doors in 1938, the NMGC was purchased by the Silver Glass Company of Meriden, Connecticut. This organization restructured the NMGC, merged the two companies together, and in 1944 renamed the resulting organization the Viking Glass Company. Viking Glass can be tricky to ID. Serious collectors do so by knowing the shapes and vibrant colors of the glass as most pieces wore paper stickers that are usually not present on pieces today. The most desired pieces are from Viking Glass' "Epic" line. Bright colors, pieces on pedestals, and even items that are animal shaped make up the Epic line.

Recycled calendars

When it comes to recycling old calendars that work for 2024, the fact that this is a Leap Year which began on a Monday limits the possibilities. Calendars from the past that do work, though, are those from 1912, 1940, 1968, and 1996. Look for paper calendars, including those that were originally published to advertise a variety of businesses and products (including funeral homes and fertilizer companies, car dealerships and soda drinks). On the other hand, ceramic calendar plates, often issued by small businesses, are most likely found from the earlier years, with linen towel calendars dating from the latter. For those feeling optimistic, this year's calendar will once again work in 2052, 2080, and 2120.

Mickey

As if Mickey Mouse would ever need more publicity, this year, the Mouse made front-page news as his earliest image entered the public domain. Specifically, this is the Mickey who, in 1928, charmed audiences in "Steamboat Willie" and "Plane Crazy," the same black-and-white version of Mickey, cute as a button and whistling a jaunty little tune with solid black eyes and no pupils. Inevitably, there will be those who attempt to use Mickey in this incarnation for their own gain, but this change in status will not, according to experts, affect how serious fans of Mickey collect him. Over the years, his image has adorned untold numbers of items. And while a few decades ago, hand-painted cels attracted his fans (and their big dollars), these days, serious collectors are particularly interested in animated art. Those on a limited budget need not despair: a wide variety of Mickey collectibles are still affordable.

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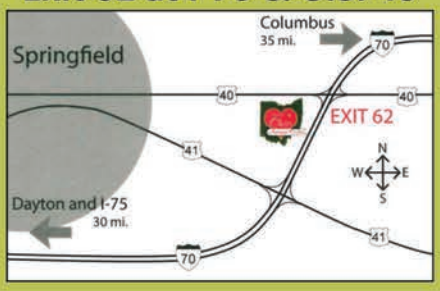

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