

70 m.p.h. in 800 feet

Snowmobiling a drag for Cass City duo

Snowmobile racing on grass -- in December.

That's the way the 1979-80 season started for snowmobile racers Bob Brinkman and Terry Elenbaum.

It wasn't the Cass Cityans' day, however. A gasket blew early and they were done for the day. That was the week end before Christmas at Mason, near Lansing.

This past Sunday, the best Brinkman, who does all the driving, could do was second place in a heat race.

"I don't care to drive it," explained Elenbaum, who

owns the snowmobile they race. "It kind of scares me." He is confident they will be doing better.

This is the second year of competition for the pair.

Last year they were part of a threesome and with Rick Ziehm doing most of the driving and Brinkman doing the rest, the trio won the Midwest International Racing Association season championship in the mini-enduro stock 1 class.

The mini-enduro races were usually on half-mile oval tracks with the feature

race about 35 miles. The season, which ran from December through February, took the team to such places as Petoskey, Harrison, Gladwin, Gaylord and into Ontario, about 35 miles east of Detroit.

"There are a lot of changes this year, in addition to Ziehm's decision not to continue with the team. He may race on his own.

THE BIG CHANGE IS that instead of mini-enduros, Elenbaum and Brinkman are drag racing.

It's done on an 800-foot

straightaway and whoever has the fastest sled over the distance in a process of elimination wins.

There were various reasons for the switch. For one, the mini-enduros didn't pay that well in prize money, considering the time and expense involved.

Even though the races will be in Mason, Bath and Ovid, all in the Lansing area, they only consume one or at the most, two days. They also plan to compete in a few sprint races in the Grand Rapids area. Sprint races

are done in a half-mile oval, with three-lap heat races and a five-lap final.

The schedule this year makes it practical to take the family along at least some of the time, which wasn't with the enduros, which consumed two or three days.

Brinkman, 24, and his wife, Debra, have two children, Jamie, 6, and Matt, 3.

Terry, 29, and his wife, Omma, have a son, Chad, 4, and daughter, Amy, 3. Chad is a budding snowmobile racer, drag racing his mini-snowmobile against other youngsters.

Elenbaum is employed at Carmet Co. in Bad Axe. Brinkman is laid off from Evans Products in Gagetown, where he was a welder.

Another change this year is in the sled. Other than the first few races last year, done on a 1974 Sno Jet owned by Elenbaum, the racing was done on a snowmobile owned by Ziehm.

This year, the Sno Jet was revitalized.

For enduro racing, the emphasis had to be on reliability on making the machine last.

But for drag racing, the only need is acceleration, which means power and lightness (plus a change in gearing).

Everything was removed that wasn't essential, including the big seat (replaced with a small one), pan under the engine and chain case.

The machine was light to begin with as it was basically built for racing, but now weighs an estimated 225-250 pounds, probably 75 less than in stock form.

Extensive modifications were made to the 340cc Yamaha engine and it's possible to make even more, if necessary. Estimated horsepower is 75, versus 45 stock.

IN ADDITION TO THE original \$1,000 cost of the machine, Elenbaum, who does most of the mechanical work, figures he has put another \$1,500 in the machine.

The result is a snowmobile that at the end of 800 feet is going about 70 miles per hour.

It has so much power that Brinkman has to be careful not to apply too much power, lest he do a "wheelie." On a trial run last Thursday outside the Elenbaum home, he gave too much juice to the throttle. The machine reared up, depositing him flat on his back on the ground.

Elenbaum describes it as a challenge to make a comparatively old air-cooled machine competitive with the more modern liquid cooled ones. "We like to compare our work with others."

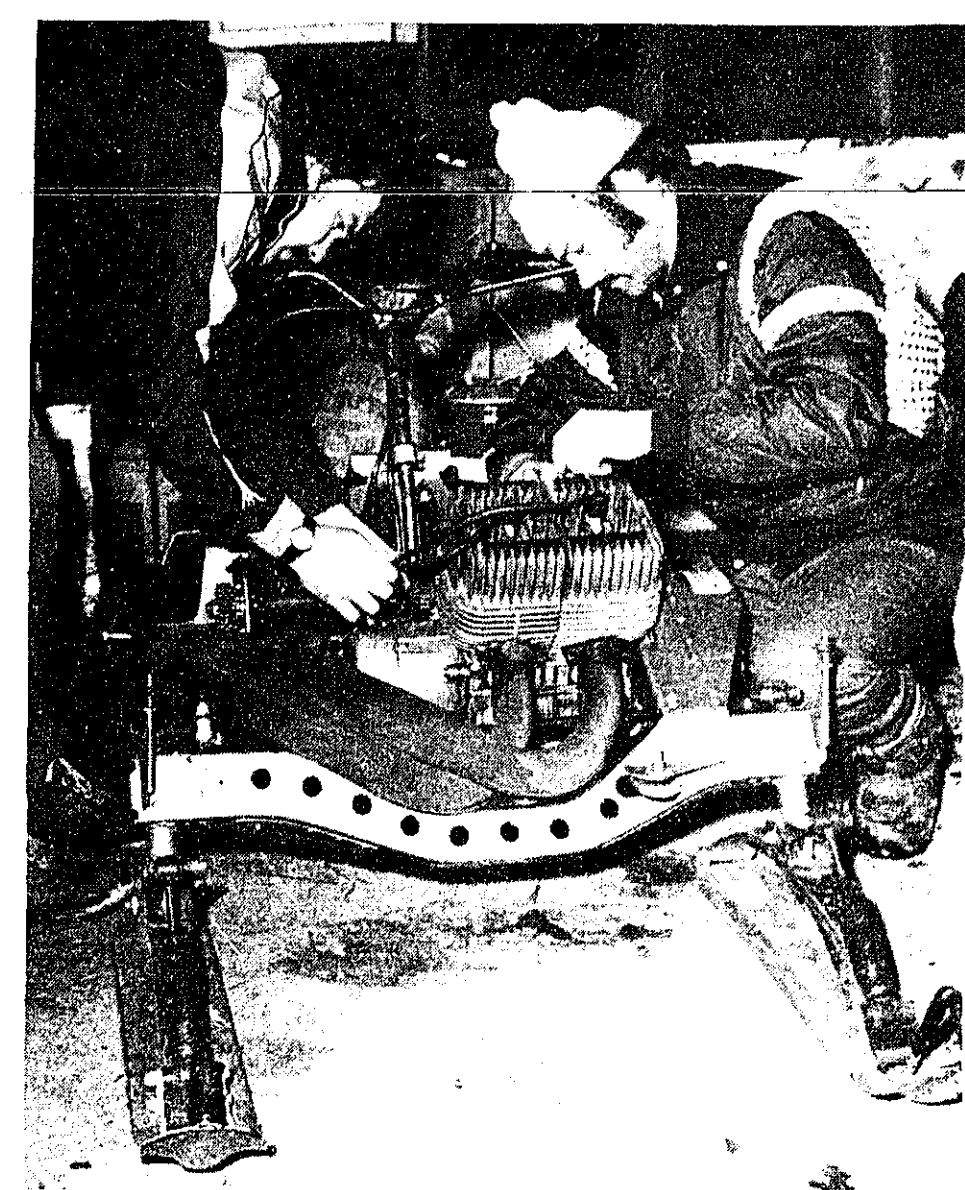
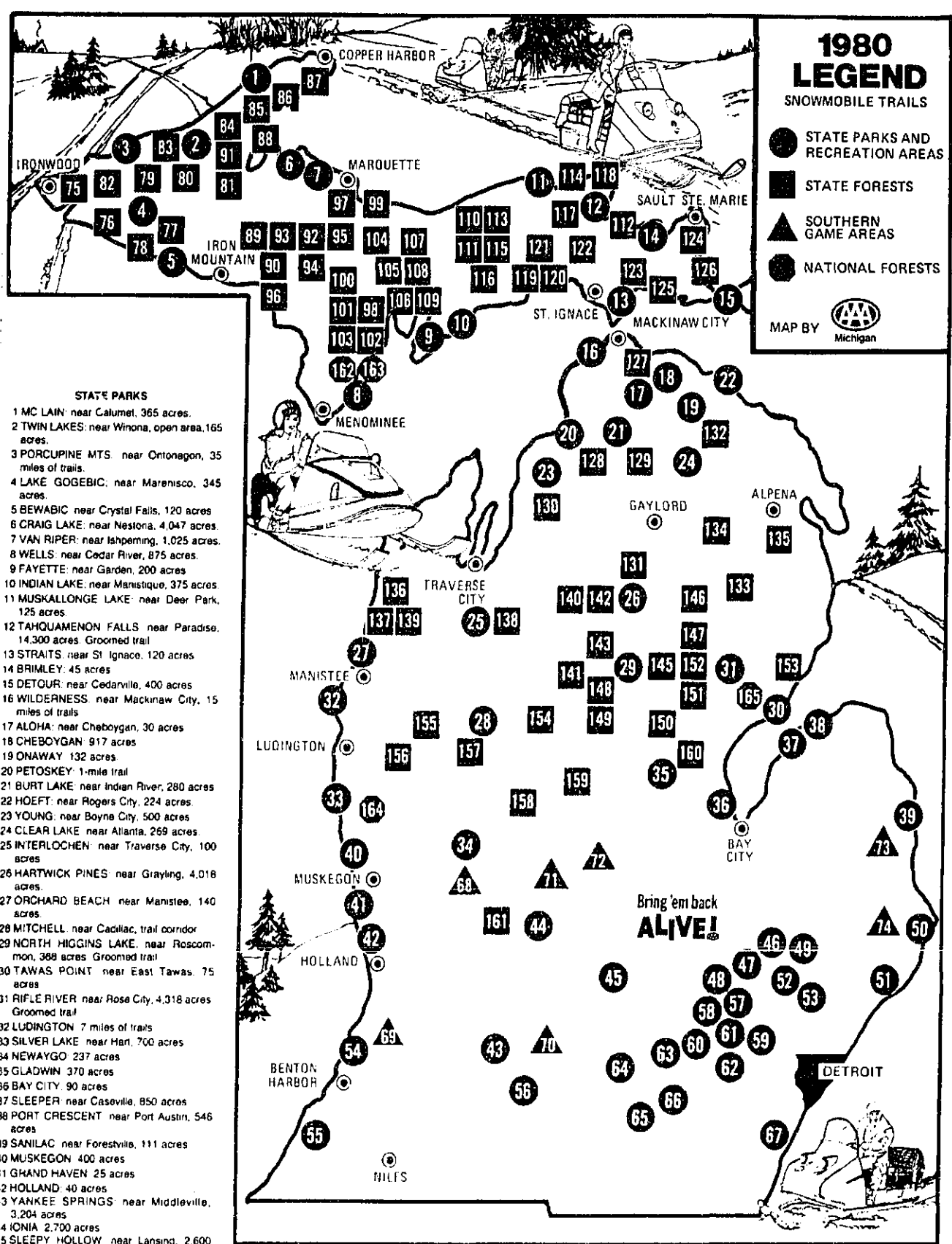
The machine runs in the 340 modified or open modified class. In the first event

of the season, there were 19 or 20 others running in the same class.

Even if Brinkman and Elenbaum won about every-thing there was to win, this season, they probably wouldn't win more than \$400, the latter estimates, not enough to pay their expenses.

"It's just a hobby," he says. "Bob likes to drive it and I like to play around with it."

Snowmobiling's Fun on Michigan's 165 Marked Trails



TUNING UP -- Bob Brinkman (left) and Terry Elenbaum work on the engine of the latter's snowmobile. The highly modified engine, which runs on aviation gasoline, puts out an estimated 75 horsepower.



TEST RUN -- Bob Brinkman revs the engine in preparation for the start of a test run. At the end of 800 feet, the snowmobile can be traveling 70 miles per hour.

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- STATE PARKS**
- 1 MC LAIN near Calumet, 365 acres.
 - 2 TWIN LAKES near Winona, open area, 165 acres.
 - 3 PORCUPINE MTS. near Ontonagon, 35 miles of trails.
 - 4 LAKE GOGEBIC near Marquette, 345 acres.
 - 5 BEAUBIAC near Crystal Falls, 120 acres.
 - 6 CRAIG LAKE near Niles, 4,047 acres.
 - 7 VAN RIPER near Ishpeming, 1,025 acres.
 - 8 WELLS near Cedar River, 875 acres.
 - 9 FAYETTE near Garden, 200 acres.
 - 10 INDIAN LAKE near Manistiquet, 375 acres.
 - 11 MUSKALONGE LAKE near Dear Park, 125 acres.
 - 12 TAQUAMENON FALLS near Paradise, 14,300 acres. Groomed trail.
 - 13 STRAITS near St. Ignace, 120 acres.
 - 14 BRIMLEY 45 acres.
 - 15 DETOUR near Cedarville, 400 acres.
 - 16 WILDERNESS near Mackinaw City, 15 miles of trails.
 - 17 ALoha near Cheboygan, 30 acres.
 - 18 CHEBOYGAN 917 acres.
 - 19 ONAWAY 132 acres.
 - 20 PETOSKEY 1-mile trail.
 - 21 BURT LAKE near Indian River, 280 acres.
 - 22 HOEFT near Rogers City, 224 acres.
 - 23 YOUNG near Boyne City, 500 acres.
 - 24 CLEAR LAKE near Atlanta, 258 acres.
 - 25 INTERLOCHEN near Traverse City, 100 acres.
 - 26 HARTWICK PINES near Grayling, 4,018 acres.
 - 27 ORCHARD BEACH near Manistee, 140 acres.
 - 28 MITCHELL near Cadillac, trail corridor.
 - 29 NORTH HIGGINS LAKE near Roscommon, 398 acres. Groomed trail.
 - 30 TAWAS POINT near East Tawas, 75 acres.
 - 31 RIFLE RIVER near Rose City, 4,318 acres. Groomed trail.
 - 32 LUDINGTON 7 miles of trails.
 - 33 SILVER LAKE near Hart, 700 acres.
 - 34 NEWAYGO 237 acres.
 - 35 GLADWIN 370 acres.
 - 36 BAY CITY 90 acres.
 - 37 SLEEPER near Cascade, 850 acres.
 - 38 POINT CRESCENT near Port Austin, 546 acres.
 - 39 SANILAC near Forestville, 111 acres.
 - 40 MUSKOGON 400 acres.
 - 41 GHAND HAVEN 25 acres.
 - 42 HOLLAND 40 acres.
 - 43 YALOE SPRINGS near Middleville, 3,204 acres.
 - 44 ONIA 2,700 acres.
 - 45 SLEEPY HOLLOW near Lansing, 2,600 acres.
- SOUTHERN GAME AREAS**
- 68 ROGUE RIVER 4 m. W. of Kent City on M-57 Trail 13 mi.
 - 69 ALLEGAN 5 m. NW of Allegan off 118th Ave. Area 12,000 acres.
 - 70 BARRY 9 m. W. of Hastings off Yankee Springs Rd. Trail 6 mi.
 - 71 FLAT RIVER 1 m. N. of Belding, 3 m. S. of Greenleaf. Trail 22 mi.
 - 72 STANTON 2 m. S. of Stanton on M-66. Trail 12 mi.
 - 73 MINDEN CITY 12 m. N. of Sandusky off Gates and Benoit. Trail 7 mi.
 - 74 PORT HURON 8 m. W. of Port Huron on M-136. Trail 8 mi.
- STATE FORESTS**
- 75 CAMP 9 TRAIL, 2 m. W. of Conronville Trail 2 mi.
 - 76 MARENISCO-PRESQUE ISLE, Wis., Iron Range State Forest in Marquette State Forest 10 m. N. and 1 m. E. of Marquette on Co. Rd. 44B Trail 15 mi.
 - 110 GRAND MARAIS, Lake Superior State Forest, 24 m. N. of Newberry on Co. Rd. 407 Trail 12 mi.
 - 111 PINE STUMP-TAHQUAMENON FALLS, Lake Superior State Forest, 20 m. N. of Newberry on Co. Rd. 407 Trail 32 mi.
 - 112 PARADISE-PINE STUMP JUNCTION, Lake Superior State Forest, Iron Paradise and Pine Stump Junction Trail 10 mi.
 - 113 DOLLARVILLE DAM, Tahquamenon River State Forest, 11 m. W. of Dollarville on Grand Marais and Tahquamenon Falls Trail 16 mi.
 - 114 NEWBERRY-UPPER TAHQUAMENON FALLS, Lake Superior and Tahquamenon State Forests, 15 m. N. of Newberry off M-123 Trail 22 mi.
 - 116 McMillan, Tahquamenon River State Forest, 3 m. S. of McMillan on Co. Rd. 429 Trail 13 mi.
 - 117 PARADISE-RACCO, Lake Superior and Muskegon State forests at Paradise or Racco Trail 35 mi.
 - 118 PARADISE-UPPER TAHQUAMENON FALLS, Lake Superior State Forest, 1 m. W. of Paradise on M-123 Trail 14 mi.
 - 119 PULLUP LAKE, Mackinac and Tahquamenon State Forests, 2 m. E. of Naubway on US-2 to M-28, 4 m. S. of Newberry Trail 20 mi.
 - 120 CARP RIVER, Mackinac State Forest, 3 m. NE of Bronson on Worth Rd. 10 to 2 m. SW of Trout Lake Trail 16 1/2 mi.
 - 121 REXTON, Mackinac State Forest at Rexton Trail 29 mi.
 - 122 KINROSS-RACO, Muskegon State Forest at Racco Trail 12 m.
 - 123 RUDYARD TROUT LAKE, Muskegon State Forest at Rudyard Trail 24 m.
 - 124 SHO-RAGO, Muskegon State Forest at Sherman Park, 1 m. E. of Sault Ste. Marie Trail 21 mi.
 - 125 CASTLE ROCK, Mackinac State Forest, 4 m. N. of St. Ignace off I-75 Trail 18 m.
 - 126 CEDARVILLE, Muskegon State Forest, 1 1/2 m. N. of Cedarville on M-129 Trail 26 mi.
 - 127 CHEBOYGAN-BLACK MOUNTAIN, Black Lake State Forest, 3 1/2 m. E. of Cheboygan Trail 45 mi.
 - 128 INDIAN RIVER, Hardwood State Forest, 2 1/2 m. W. of Indian River on M-68 Trail 21 mi.
 - 129 WOLVERINE, Hardwood State Forest, 2 m. W. 1/2 m. S. of Wolverine to Peol Rd. Trail 17 m.
 - 130 CHANDLER HILL, Jordan River State Forest, 5 m. W. of Boyne Falls on Co. Rd. 626, 2 m. N. on Slashing Rd. 1/2 m. W. on Chandler Rd. Trail 36 m.
 - 131 NORTH BRANCH, Ottawa State Forest, 2 1/2 m. S. of Gaylord on Old US-27, 8 m. E. on I-75 Trail 23 m.
 - 132 SILVER CREEK, Black Lake State Forest, 2 m. E. of Milsburg Trail 40 mi.
 - 133 AVERY HILLS, Thunder Bay River State Forest, 4 1/2 m. S. of Atlanta on Co. Rd. 487, 3 m. W. on Avery Lake Rd. Trail 14 mi.
 - 134 BRUSH CREEK, Thunder Bay River State Forest, 2 m. N. of Atlanta on M-33, 1/2 m. E. on Voyer Rd. Trail 30 mi.
 - 135 OEVLES LAKE, Alpena State Forest, 4 m. S. of Alpena on Poplar Rd. Trail 27 m.
 - 136 PLATTE RIVER, Betsie River State Forest, 8 1/2 m. SE. of Honor on Cedar Rd. 1 1/2 m. E. of Co. Rd. 669 Trail 38 mi.
 - 137 BERSIE RIVER, Betsie River State Forest, start at Beaulieu, Honor, Thompsonville or Turtle Lake Trail 36 mi.
 - 138 BOARDMAN VALLEY, Fife Lake & Kalkaska State forests, start at Mayfield, Kalkaska, Walton Jet, Tavarae City 250 or Fife Lake Trail 81 mi.
 - 139 BEAR LAKE SPUR, Betsie River State Forest at Thompsonville, Trail 16 mi.
 - 140 BLUE BEAR, Kalkaska State Forest, 1 m. E. of Kalkaska on M-72 Trail 45 mi.
 - 141 MISS-KAL LINE, Missaukee State Forest, 1 1/2 m. E. of Mooresville, 1 m. NE. Trail 28 mi.
 - 142 GRAYLING-LOVELLS, Au Sable State Forest, 2 m. N. of Grayling on Old US-27 Trail 13 mi.
 - 143 SKYLINE, Au Sable State Forest, 6 1/2 m. S. of Grayling, 1 m. E. Trail 25 mi.
 - 144 GLADWIN REFUGE, Tittabawassee River State Forest, 1 1/2 m. N. of Meredith Trail 13 mi.
 - 145 ROSCOMMON-ST. HELEN, Houghton Lake State Forest, 1 m. SE. of Roscommon on M-70 or St. Helen to m. E. of M-70 on Beaver Lake Rd. Trail 25 mi.
 - 146 POLL TUN, Oscoda State Forest, 1/2 m. E. of Lovells on Lovells Rd. Trail 25 mi.
 - 147 MUSKRAT LAKE, Oscoda State Forest, 5 m. N. of Mio on M-33 to Co. Rd. 606, 4 1/2 m. W. 1 m. N. Trail 25 mi.
 - 148 NORTH HIGGINS LAKE, Au Sable State Forest, 1 m. E. of N. Higgins Lake, 75 east Trail 8 mi.
 - 149 WEST HIGGINS LAKE, Houghton Lake and Au Sable State forests, 1/2 m. W. of interchange US-27 and Co. Rd. 104 Trail 18 mi.
 - 150 PRUDENVILLE, Houghton Lake State Forest, 2 m. W. of Prudenville on M-55, 1/2 m. S. Trail 25 mi.
 - 151 OJEMAW HILLS, Ogemaw State Forest, 3 m. E. of St. Ignace on Beaver Lake Rd. Trail 13 mi.
 - 152 ROSE CITY-CLEAR LAKE, Ogemaw State Forest, 3 1/2 m. W. of Rose City Trail 50 mi.
 - 153 SEVEN MILE HILL, Oscoda State Forest, 3 1/2 m. W. of Oscoda on River Rd., 2 m. N. to Bissonee Rd. 1 m. W. Trail 20 mi.
 - 154 STRATFORD-GRASS LAKE, Missaukee and Kalkaska State forests, 1 1/2 m. E. of Mooresville, 1 m. NE Trail 13 mi.
 - 155 LITTLE MANISTEE, Pere Marquette State and Manistee National forests, 15 1/2 m. N. of Baldwin on M-37, E. of Haderbeck's gas station Trail 24 mi.
 - 156 LITTLE MANISTEE, Pere Marquette State Forest, 4 1/2 m. N. of Baldwin on M-37, 1/2 m. E. Trail 45 mi.
 - 157 TIN CUP, Pere Marquette State Forest, 5 m. N.W. of Nevada Trail 19 mi.
 - 158 OLD SHEEP RANCH, Chippewa River State Forest, 1 m. N., 3 m. W. of Ewart on Twin Creek Rd. Trail 25 mi.
 - 159 FUR FARM, Chippewa River and Missaukee State forests at Hanson airport Trail 50 m.
 - 160 MOLASSES RIVER, Tittabawassee River State Forest, 7 m. E. of Gladwin on M-61 Trail 35 mi.
 - 161 WEST MICHIGAN, at Deer Run Golf Course on Cascade Rd. S. of Lowell, or Yankee Springs Rec. Area Trail 50 mi.