

THE TABLOID TOUR SITES YOU WON'T FIND ON OFFICIAL DETROIT ITINERARY

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Hang a left at **the** grave of Russell A. Alger, governor. Hang another at James F. Joy, Soo Locks developer, and swing past James D. Standish, lumber baron.

Pull over at Lot 18, Section O, and clamber up a small rise. There lies one of Elmwood Cemetery's most frequently sought tenants -- Richard E. Carter, drug dealer.

Maserati Rick Carter was shot to death in room 307 at Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital on Sept. 12, 1988, and buried in a casket trimmed with parts from a Mercedes-Benz. **The** tires were removed, says an Elmwood spokesman, "but to **the** best of my knowledge, **the** grille and **the** headlights stayed on." Rust in peace.

Carter's final parking place seems as good a spot as any to begin a **tour** of Unauthorized Detroit, **the** truly interesting locations that **the** visitors bureau always forgets to mention. This is an unguided **tour**, but not an uninspired one; in fact, **the** patron saint of twisted travel is scheduled to be David Letterman's guest tonight; his show is seen in Detroit at 1:05 a.m. on WDIV-TV, Channel 4.

Vince Staten, 42, figures that if **you** 've seen one monument, **you** 've seen them all. But if **you** haven't seen Elvis Presley's favorite drugstore or **the** intersection where James Dean crunched his Porsche, **you** haven't seen anything.

To **the** author of "Unauthorized America" (Harper & Row, \$9.95), a historic battle **site** is a place where Sean Penn duked a photographer. He figures there's nothing better than a notorious crime, unless it's a sex scandal or a particularly weird UFO sighting. Tops on his personal hit parade: **The** farm in Mars Bluff, S.C., where **the** Air Force accidentally dropped an atomic bomb. **The** bomb's non-nuclear components exploded and put a 75-foot-long crater where a house used to be.

Staten saw or visited most of **the** 500 sights and **sites** in "Unauthorized America," bouncing across **the** back roads in a 1983 Buick LeSabre with a broken speedometer.

He spent two days in greater Detroit, re-enacting **the** last sighting of Jimmy Hoffa at **the** Machus Red Fox and visiting Aretha Franklin's abandoned house at 19346 Sorrento Ave., then drove west to explore Elvis sightings in Kalamazoo.

Staten did not drop by Elmwood to see Maserati Rick, whose flat marble marker is a stylish two-tone. "I would have made a side trip," explains **the** reformed journalist from Prospect, Ky., "except that I'd never heard of him."

That gives Staten a reason to come back. While he's here, he can explore Unauthorized Detroit, a collection of infamous, obscured, sadly ignored or thankfully forgotten places where something happened once upon a time.

The Zilwaukee People Mover

A massive People Mover beam crashed to **the** street and shattered on Dec. 9, 1984.

Workers that Sunday morning were trying to wrestle it into place atop two pillars when one end slipped from a crane and dropped 40 feet. **The** beam, 95 feet long and 105 tons, sprawled across **the** intersection of Larned and First all day, blocking **the** entrance to **the** rooftop parking lot at Cobo Hall and frustrating visitors to a camper and travel trailer show. **The** intersection has since been swallowed by **the** Cobo expansion.

"Something may have broke," suggested a People Mover spokesman. Said a police officer at **the** scene, "I only heard one word: 'Oops!' "

Where **the** Little Navy foundered

Joe Lebowitz's brigands had so many boats running bootleg liquor across **the** Detroit River during Prohibition that they were known as **the** Little Navy Gang. On Sept. 16, 1931, Lebowitz and two associates were herded into a room at Collingwood Manor and gunned down.

The rival Purple Gang snatched them from their car in **the** middle of West Grand Blvd. and took them to 1740 Collingwood, now a vacant lot so barren it barely supports weeds. It's across from **the** Liquor World Shoppe, on **the** northeast corner of Collingwood and Rosa Parks.

Raymond Bernstein, Harry Keywell and Irving Milberg had rented apartment No. 211 for **the** afternoon affair. Convicted of murder, they later appealed; Bernstein and Keywell said they were calling their bookie long-distance at **the** time of **the** crime, while Milberg said he was still in bed.

The appeals were denied. Not only that, they lost their damage deposit.

The house where Reggie grew up, up, up

Basketball star Reggie Harding was born in 1942 and somehow made it through 30 years before a buddy shot him in **the** head at **the** corner of Parkview and Kercheval. He grew up in **the** same area, in **the** well-kept white frame house at 4669 Harding. (**The** street was not named after him. A cell block, maybe, but not a city block.)

He played at Eastern High School, then graduated to **the** Pistons. Alas, his promising career was derailed by drugs and chronic stupidity. He soon moved into **the** exciting field of robbing dope houses at gunpoint, but not before he held up a small market he had patronized most of his life.

Harding walked into **the** store with a mask over his face and flashed his pistol. "Come on, Reggie, cut it out," said **the** shopkeeper.

"I ain't Reggie," said **the** neighborhood's only 7-foot-tall former NBA star, at which point **the** shopkeeper shot him in **the** leg.

Dunkenburgers' leftovers

The Dunkenburgers drive-in at 17020 E. Eight Mile was **the** mid-'60s hangout of choice for at least nine high schools. Now a fish-and-chips shop, it left a legacy of one-way streets and **the** oddest road sign in Detroit.

Cars would roar into **the** parking lot in futile search of spaces, careen back onto Eight Mile, make an immediate right turn at Kelly and turn right again at Collingham or Carlisle, circling **the** block so they could roar into **the** parking lot again.

Homeowners were not amused. At their urging, **the** city made Collingham and Carlisle one-way eastbound, cutting **the** cruisers off at **the** pass. But it's not enough that two side streets in a row go one way in **the** same direction. At Edmore, **the** third corner down from Eight Mile, a sign remains:

"No right turn, 9 p.m.-2 a.m."

Jerry Buckley's sign-off

Detroit's most popular radio announcer, Jerry Buckley, was on his way out of **the** LaSalle Hotel when an assassin hiding near **the** front desk pumped four bullets into him.

It was 1:45 a.m. on July 23, 1930. Buckley had just finished his broadcast at **the** hotel studio of WMBC, now WQBH-AM (1400). Presumably, he had discussed late returns from **the** July 22 recall election that ousted Mayor Charles Bowles, who was defeated seven weeks later by future governor Frank Murphy.

The LaSalle, at Woodward and Adelaide, is now a \$199-a-month senior citizens apartment house called **the** Detroiter Residence Hotel. Tenants will gladly point out **the** bullet hole in **the** hardwood divider that stretches across **the** lobby.

Ossian Sweet's house

The Welcome Wagon for Dr. Ossian Sweet was a mob of rock-throwing Caucasians.

Sweet was **the** first black on **the** block, and in **the** Detroit of 1925, that was enough to rouse **the** rabble. On Sept. 10, some 150 neighbors surrounded **the** handsome brick house at 1905 Garland, hurling insults and then graduating to harder objects. As police stood by doing nothing, shots rang from an upstairs window, and a white man fell dead.

All 11 people who were in **the** house at **the** time were charged with murder. **The** impassioned Clarence Darrow got them a hung jury from an all-white panel, then won an acquittal for Sweet's brother in a second trial.

Widowed, arthritic and depressed, Sweet committed suicide in 1960, two years after Herbert Baxter bought **the** house on **the** corner of Garland and Charlevoix. "I get people asking about it every year," Baxter says. "Usually, it's a student writing a thesis."

The house and grounds are immaculate; Baxter had **the** trim repainted last month. **The** school on **the** opposite corner, where **the** mob gathered, is also in good repair. It is named after Julia Ward Howe, who wrote **the** words to " **The** Battle Hymn of **the** Republic."

The First!First Pizza!Pizza

Mike Ilitch's Little Caesars empire began with a take-out restaurant called Little Caesars Pizza Treat in Garden City.

Though it has dropped **the** "Pizza Treat," it's still a Little Caesars. **You** can tell because a counter clerk answers **the** phone, "Little Caesars. Would **you** like to try our Meatsa! Meatsa Pizza! Pizza?"

The shop is sandwiched between a coin-op laundry and a dry cleaner in a strip mall at 32594 Cherryhill Road. Since its grand opening on May 9, 1959, nearly 3,000 Little Caesars have followed.

At company meetings, manager Dave Leslie and his staff like to chant, "We're No. 1!"

The death of **the** party

Michigan was **the** first governmental body in **the** Western world to abolish capital punishment. **The** law came 16 years too late for Stephen Simmons.

Simmons, a farmer from Wayne, staggered home drunk one day in 1830. When his wife objected, he beat her, as was his habit. This time she died, and Simmons was sentenced to hang.

The gallows was erected on Sept. 24 at about where **the** downtown branch of **the** Detroit Public Library stands today. Bands played and vendors hawked peanuts. **The** 2,000 revelers who witnessed **the** only execution ever carried out by **the** state or territory of Michigan were prepared for a high old time.

Then Simmons turned out to be genuinely repentant, putting a damper on **the** whole day. He admitted his guilt, confessed his sins and led **the** crowd in prayers and psalms. By **the** time **the** sheriff opened **the** trap door, nobody much felt like celebrating.

Scaled up

The longest-running sight gag in Detroit is stenciled on **the** side of a Conrail railroad bridge over **the** Lodge Freeway, just south of West Grand Blvd.

It's visible from **the** northbound side. Look to **the** left. Or, for a closer view, take Trumbull to Elijah McCoy Drive and turn east. (Not that **you** asked, but McCoy Drive snakes past **the** former homesite of Elijah McCoy, who patented an automatic lubricating cup that oiled locomotives in mid-chug. Legend has it that engineers used to insist on " **the** real McCoy.")

As McCoy becomes John C. Lodge Drive, a piece of graffiti at least 25 years old will be dead ahead on **the** trestle. In faded letters 2 1/2 feet high, it reads:

"LIONEL."

Home sweet (at)? percent!& home

Coleman Young's last address before Manoogian Mansion was 278 E. Forest, a carefully maintained, eight-unit apartment building with bay windows, fresh white trim and a row of vodka begonias along **the** sidewalk out front.

This is not to be confused with his old house at Harding and Canfield, which is now a great place to be a weed, or **the** Elmwood Park townhouse that **the** Feds bugged during **the** VISTA investigation. He lived here in 1973, when he was but a humble state senator running for mayor.

We know his old phone number, too, but we can't print it because someone else has it now. "We never get any calls for him," she reports. Her name -- honest -- is Elizabeth Taylor.

Dying for a smoke

The first fatality of **the** 1967 riots was Walter Grzanka, 45, shot shortly after midnight on July 24 as he departed a looted grocery store via **the** broken front window.

Grzanka was killed by **the** manager of **the** Temple Market, 2844 Fourth, who was waiting in a burgundy 1965 Mustang outside what is now a Muslim prayer house.

In Grzanka's pockets were nine pairs of shoelaces, four packages of pipe tobacco and seven cigars.

The more things change...

Susan B. Anthony spoke to **the** Northwestern Women's Suffrage Association in Detroit on Nov. 29, 1870. She praised **the** city for its ties to **the** Underground Railroad, then called **the** efforts futile because "every year, 400,000 children are born in **the** condition of slaves."

The spot where she appeared is now occupied by **the** westernmost of **the** two bunkers in front of **the** Renaissance Center. **The** building was called Young Men's Hall.

Explosive journalism

The Detroit Journal explosion of Nov. 6, 1895, remains one of **the** worst disasters in Michigan history. A boiler explosion and fire killed 37 and led to **the** arrest of building engineer Thomas Thompson, who according to **the** Free Press was "in **the** habit of leaving his engine and boilers and visiting **the** saloons in **the** neighborhood."

Automation has since come to that location on Larned. It's **the** Financial District station of **the** People Mover.

Ken Weiner's day off

Ken Weiner, accused swindler and mayoral business associate, decided to take an hour to conduct some personal business last May 10. Unfortunately, he was a federal prisoner at **the** time.

He ducked out a side door of his lawyer's office building at 6735 Telegraph, Suite 350, Birmingham, swiped a van and went to meet his brother at Big Boy, 15750 J.L. Hudson Drive, Southfield. Weiner told his brother, Howard, that he had cut a deal and was leaving town. Howard gave him \$200 and a lift to a nearby building, then became suspicious and called police.

Weiner had abandoned **the** van by then in Lot E at Northland Mall. He was next spotted approaching **the** pay phone in **the** emergency room at Providence Hospital in Southfield. Police snagged him outside **the** Providence Medical Building, **the** big glass structure behind **the** hospital.

Weiner has not said why he chose those destinations. But had he really wanted to disappear, he could have just trotted across **the** street from his lawyer's office . . .

To **the** Machus Red Fox.

Caption: Photo Color DAVID TURNLEY; Photo RICHARD LEE

: A bullet hole in **the** hardwood marks **the** spot where radio announcer Jerry Buckley was shot in 1930. A 105-ton People Mover beam lies in **the** street near Cobo Hall after it fell 40 feet. **The** intersection has since been swallowed by **the** Cobo expansion. Lettering may bring a smile to drivers who pass this railroad bridge on Elijah McCoy Drive, near **the** Lodge. This Big Boy on Hudson Drive in Southfield is where federal prisoner Ken Weiner met his brother during his short-lived escape from custody last spring.

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