CITY OF DETROIT
SPERAMUS MELIORA
RESURGET CINERIBUS
MICHIGAN

*To the President*

COUNT de BAILLET LATOUR

*and the Members*

*of the*

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

*Convening in London, England*

*June 5 to 8, 1939*

A Brief Review of the Invitation Presented by the
Detroit Olympic Games Committee Requesting the Awarding
of the XIII Olympiad to Detroit, Michigan, U. S. A.

*Compiled and Presented by the Detroit Deputation to the London Conference*
*of the International Olympic Committee.*

FROM AMERICA'S FOURTH CITY:

# *Greetings*

THE CITIZENS OF DETROIT earnestly request your sincere consideration of the American Olympic Committee's invitation to celebrate the XIII Olympiad in the World's Motor Capital.

The Detroit Olympic deputation, which journeyed to London to present this solicitation, indulges the hope that your esteemed International Committee may heed this petition with particular favor. Our official welcome bears the unanimous endorsement of a civic committee composed of prominent citizens in the industrial, educational, mercantile and social life of our dynamic city.

The diversified nature of Detroit's ample qualifications for holding the great world congress of sports was described in some detail in the official invitation filed last August, facsimile copies of which were also sent to all national committee members. This invitation expressed the sincerity of Detroit's desire to be your 1944 host and illustrated the adequacy of her present and proposed facilities.

Long recognized as the outstanding productive community in history, Detroit's success in securing your award would serve to add further support to the already tremendous following of amateur sports and Olympic ideals. Very specifically we feel that a wholesome, splendid educational portrayal of Olympic history, standards and ideals appealing to all classes and all ages, would recreate a strong community spirit in the world's most productive center—the effect of which would be felt not only within our national boundaries, but perhaps throughout the civilized world as well.

Our request harbors no desire for tangible gain. The Detroit Olympic Games Committee has pledged that all funds received over and above the expense of presenting the 1944 games shall be allocated to the International and American Committees for use at their discretion.

To review briefly Detroit's advantages as the location for the XIII Olympiad, let it be noted that Detroit is situated approximately in the center of the North American continent, less than one kilometer removed from Canada. The summer climate is ideally temperate —average temperature, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., June 1 to August 1, is 78.7 degrees Fahrenheit. Detroit holds several public health records. Its

hotel and housing facilities are entirely adequate to accommodate all guests and visitors. Transportation facilities are unexcelled in America —the city enjoys accessibility by air, rail, water and highways. Detroit's points of special interest to visitors are internationally known; her great motor plants, laboratories, museums, parks and adjacent areas have been visited by millions of interested persons from all parts of the world.

Our Detroit deputation fully recognizes its potential opportunities as well as its large responsibilities. We are genuinely grateful for the American Olympic Committee's endorsement of our request and we are further thankful for this opportunity to present our personal invitation to your International Committee.

On behalf of the people of Detroit, we extend to you all their most cordial greetings and very best wishes.

DETROIT OLYMPIC GAMES COMMITTEE

FREDERICK C. MATTHAEI

J. LEE BARRETT

## FACTS ABOUT DETROIT

| | |
|---|---|
| Population | 1,700,000 |
| Area | 140 square miles |
| Area of Parks | 3,656 acres |
| Number of Churches | 780 |
| Number of Radio Stations | 6 |
| Hotels | 200 have 25,000 rooms |
| Railroads | 9 systems, 3 terminals |
| Airports in District | 6 |
| Hospitals | 200 have 20,000 beds |
| Number of Public Schools | 255 |
| Number of Pupils | 264,697 |
| Public Libraries | 23 |

*Principal Manufactured Products:*

Automobiles and accessories; parts and bodies; steel works and rolling mill products; pharmaceuticals and chemicals; paints and varnishes; stoves; machinery; vacuum cleaners; tools; refrigerators; adding and calculating machines; metal products; screw machine products; marine engines.

DETROIT

# DETROIT

## POISED FOR ACTION

FROM THE CIVIC AND INDUSTRIAL LEADERS O

# DETROIT INVITES

When the eternal torch flames for the XIII Olympiad, *Detroit will be ready.*

When the youth of the world responds to the call, *Detroit will be ready.*

When the flower of all nations gather, eager for the trials, *Detroit will be ready.*

When the champions flash to victory on field and track, *Detroit will be ready.*

Detroit, dynamic American city of the Great Lakes, throws wide her gates . . . invites the exalted Olympic host to gather within her boundaries for the XIII Olympiad.

Here the fire of the ancient games that first flamed on the Grecian plains of Elis can leap to new life . . . to new intensity of spirit.

Detroit, by site and facilities, is worthy ground for modern Olympics.

For Detroit is a modern metropolis linked to pioneering tradition as sturdy as the oaks of Michigan . . . oaks symbolic of Olympic victory.

Her hardy heritage of courage springs from noble Indian warriors, dauntless explorers and daring peoples of many countries.

SINCE the days of its founding by Cadillac in 1701, Detroit has been important in World and American history. Fort Detroit was the focal point for the French and British struggle for dominion of all the vast lands of the St. Lawrence, Ohio and Mississippi valleys. Detroit has witnessed a vivid, marching pageant of great Indian chiefs, Jesuit explorers, proud French nobles, fearless voyageurs and rugged pioneers. All the energies and courage of this vital ancestry live today in the industrial leadership, vitality and character of this great city.

WHEREVER the eye turns about Detroit it is rewarded with scenic beauty. The natural beauty of giant trees, deep rivers and vast lakes forms a striking background for the man-made beauty of stately buildings, wide thoroughfares and landscaped parks and highways. Detroit's thousand acre island park, Belle Isle, in the Detroit River, is world famous. Lake Shore Drive winding along the edge of Lake St. Clair bordered by scores of beautiful estates is not matched anywhere. The city proper is rimmed for miles with a lace work of wide parkways and smooth highways.

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# THE XIII OLYMPIAD

WITH such blessings of scenic beauty . . . with so much unfettered space for people to live in and work and play . . . Detroit enjoys an unrivaled public health record. Detroit proudly points to its defeat of disease and the radiant health of its men, women and children. And Detroit protects this health with every facility of modern science . . . with some of the finest hospitals in the country.

YOUTH and education go hand in hand in Detroit. Grade and high schools set an example for other cities. The University of Detroit and Wayne University rank with the best centers of higher education in the country. Nearby University of Michigan at Ann Arbor is world renowned as a center of learning.

THIS city takes time from the rush of affairs to cultivate knowledge. The magnificent Art Center with its stately Public Library and Institute of Arts on wider Woodward Avenue inspires Detroiters with the world's genius of art and literature. Ford's Greenfield Village, mecca of visitors from every land, preserves the customs and industry of early America.

OUTSTANDING sports center, Detroit is well named the "City of Champions." Its teams and individual athletes have won highest laurels in practically every line of competition. Detroiters are keenly sport minded. Their interest in sport activities is a natural result of their health and abounding energy, the stimulating climate and easy access to every sport facility. The good sportsmanship and fair play of clean, hard athletic contest appeals to the Detroit temperament. Here the athletes of all nations would find complete sympathy with the Olympic oath they swear.

DETROIT is located on the border line between the United States and Canada, not far from the geographic center of population of North America. The Great Lakes, sweeping away to the North, East and West are the largest inland seas on the Globe . . . with a combined area of 94,710 square miles.

WITHIN a few hours' distance by plane or train of over seventy per cent of the population of the United States, Detroit is ideally situated for Olympic Game attendance. Detroit is reached by every convenience of swift, modern transportation . . . airlines, railroads, highways and waterways . . . from the great cities of New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston, New Orleans, Montreal and those of the west coast.

FABULOUS indeed is the industrial achievement of Detroit. Nearly four million automobiles alone have been produced here in a single year. Mass production and mass distribution are the accomplishments of Detroit's engineers, craftsmen and salesmanship. This industrial progress has contributed richly to the material well being of countless people. Detroit serves the world as the world is mechanized and put on wheels. What more inspiring experience for the leaders of world youth than a visit to this vast modern workshop?

DETROIT can readily care for the thousands of visitors to be expected at an Olympiad. Scores of fine hotels are at their service. Every Detroit club and association would welcome this opportunity to show their hospitality.

DETROIT is even now ready for an Olympiad with excellent facilities, natural and constructed for athletic contests. The wide, smooth Detroit River provides a perfect course for rowing, sculling and canoeing. Lake St. Clair and the Detroit and Grosse Pointe Yacht Clubs offer the finest yachting conditions. The Bloomfield Hunt Club in nearby Bloomfield Hills is an ideal site for the equestrian trials. The marathon course can be marked on a score of interesting routes.

AMBITIOUS plans are projected for new Olympiad facilities upon the acceptance of Detroit as the location for the 1944 Games. These plans can make the games as memorable as any in the modern series. A centrally located Olympic Stadium, designed to hold 110,000 spectators is planned. A beautiful Olympic Village to house the teams and managers has been planned. A magnificent swimming pool for aquatic sports with galleries for at least 15,000 spectators would also be built. No comfort of visiting athletes would be overlooked.

*These are the reasons why Detroit is ready . . . why Detroit invites the XIII Olympiad in 1944. And pictured in the following pages of this book are the attributes described in this invitation.*

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# HISTORY

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Two years before its occupation by Americans in 1794 Detroit was already a flourishing village . . . center for the fur trade and lake shipping throughout the entire area embracing the Great Lakes and the head waters of the Mississippi River.

In 1837 Michigan territory became a state with Detroit as its first capital. Even by then Detroit's rapidly growing industries began to show the first signs of the financial and industrial importance soon to be attained.

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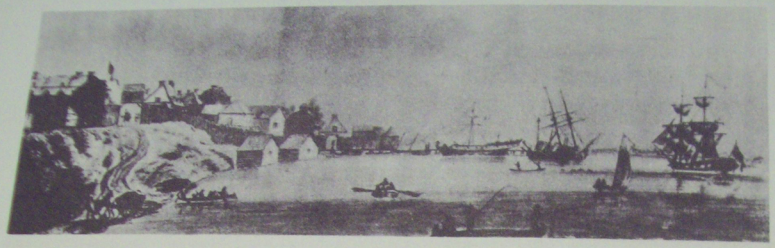

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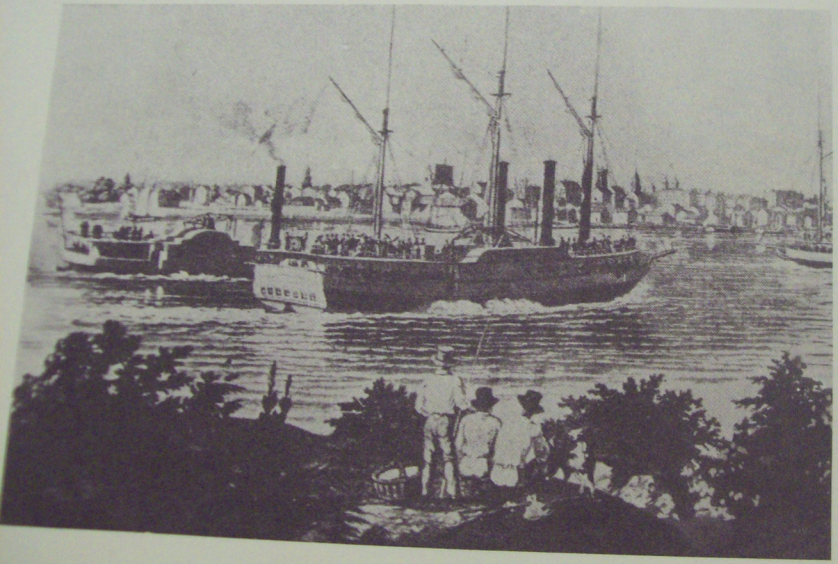

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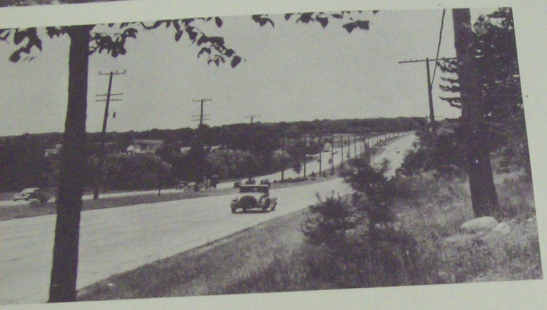
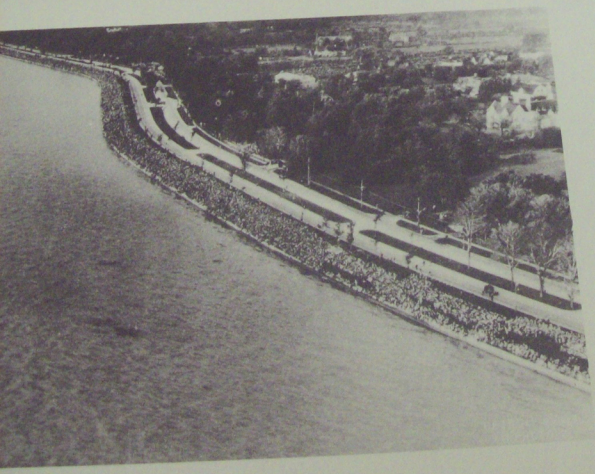
*Twentieth Century Detroit* ranks with the first cities of the world . . . in population, wealth, shipping, manufacturing, commerce and financ

# SCENIC

Today, visitors to these rivers and waterways experience much the same thrill as the first French explorers, for civilization has not changed the natural beauty of the lakes and rivers of Detroit.



Super-highways, like the spokes of a giant wheel, speed thousands of motor vehicles in and out of the Detroit area each day. Wayne County, with Detroit at its hub, is internationally known as the birthplace of the modern concrete road.



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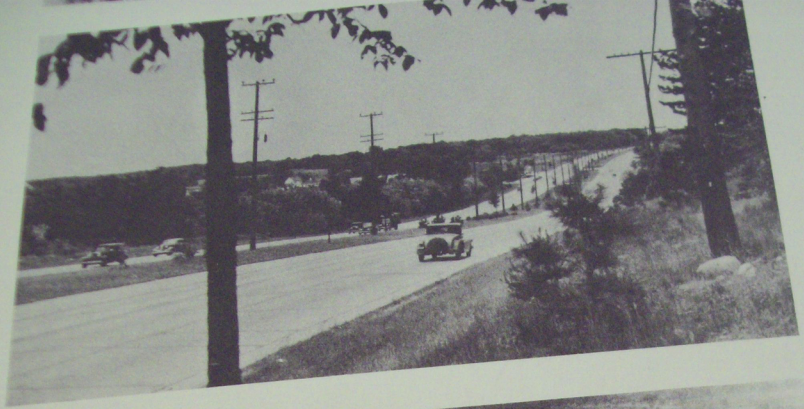

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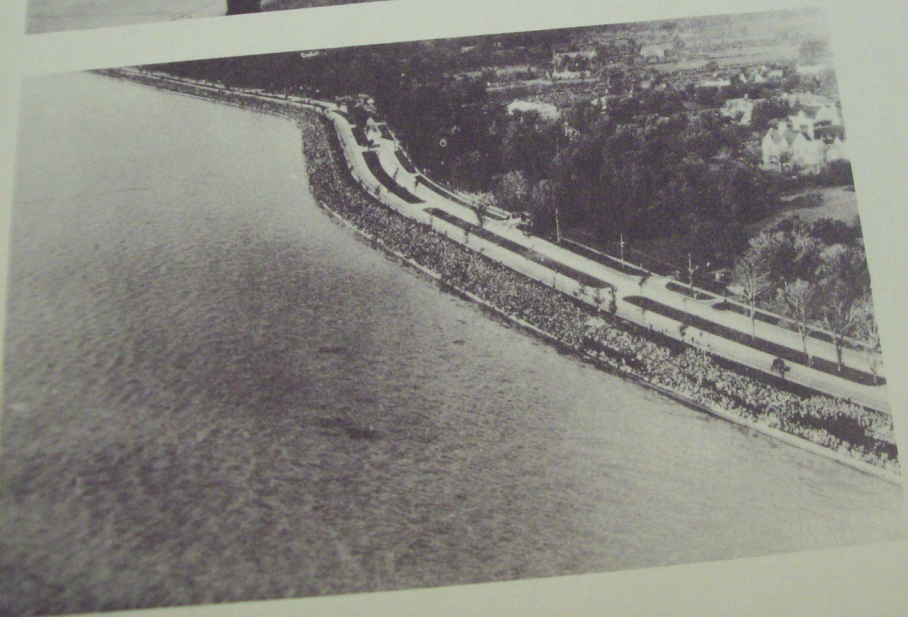

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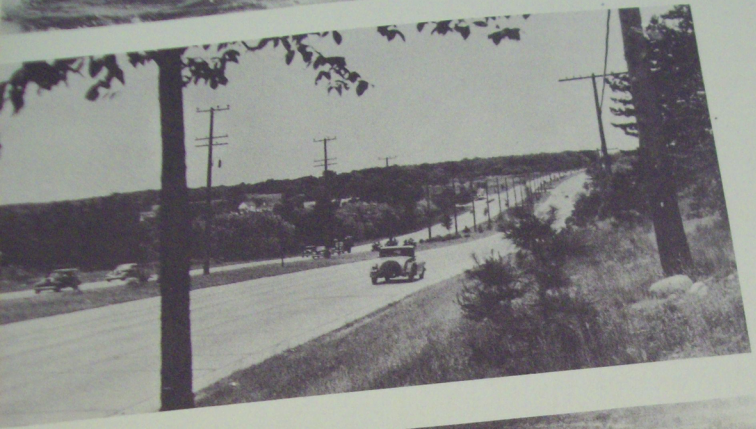

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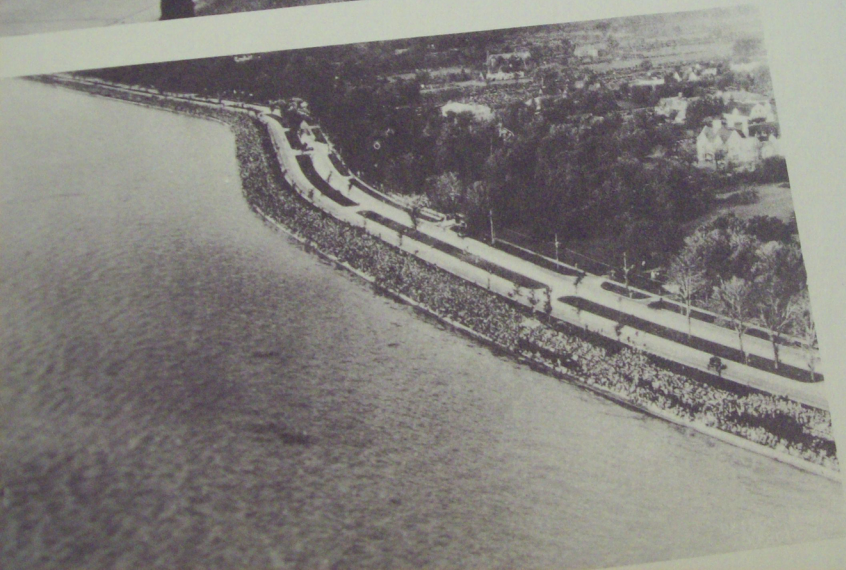

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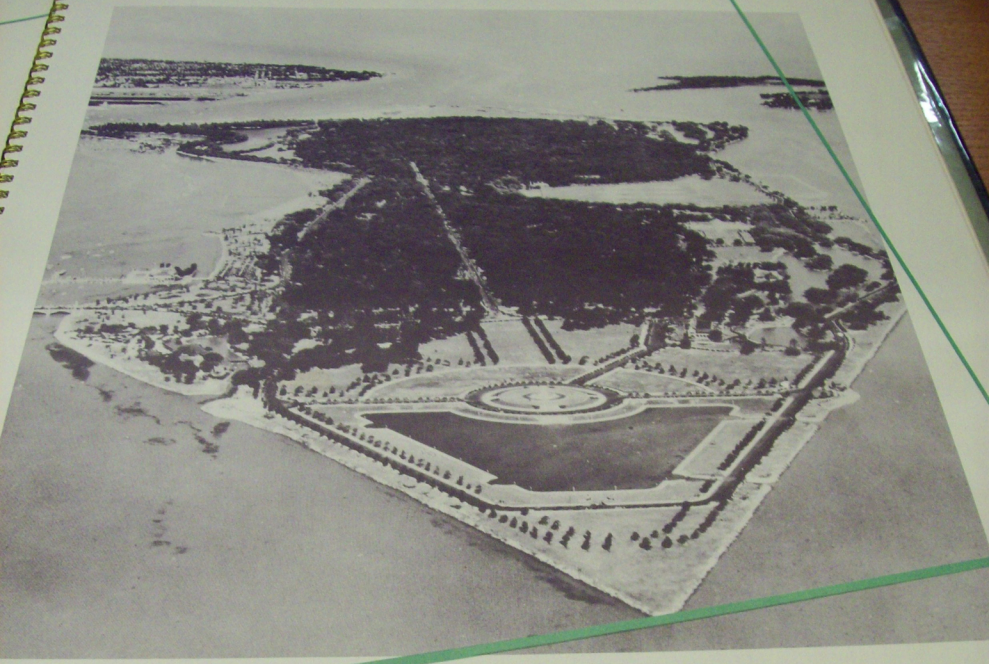

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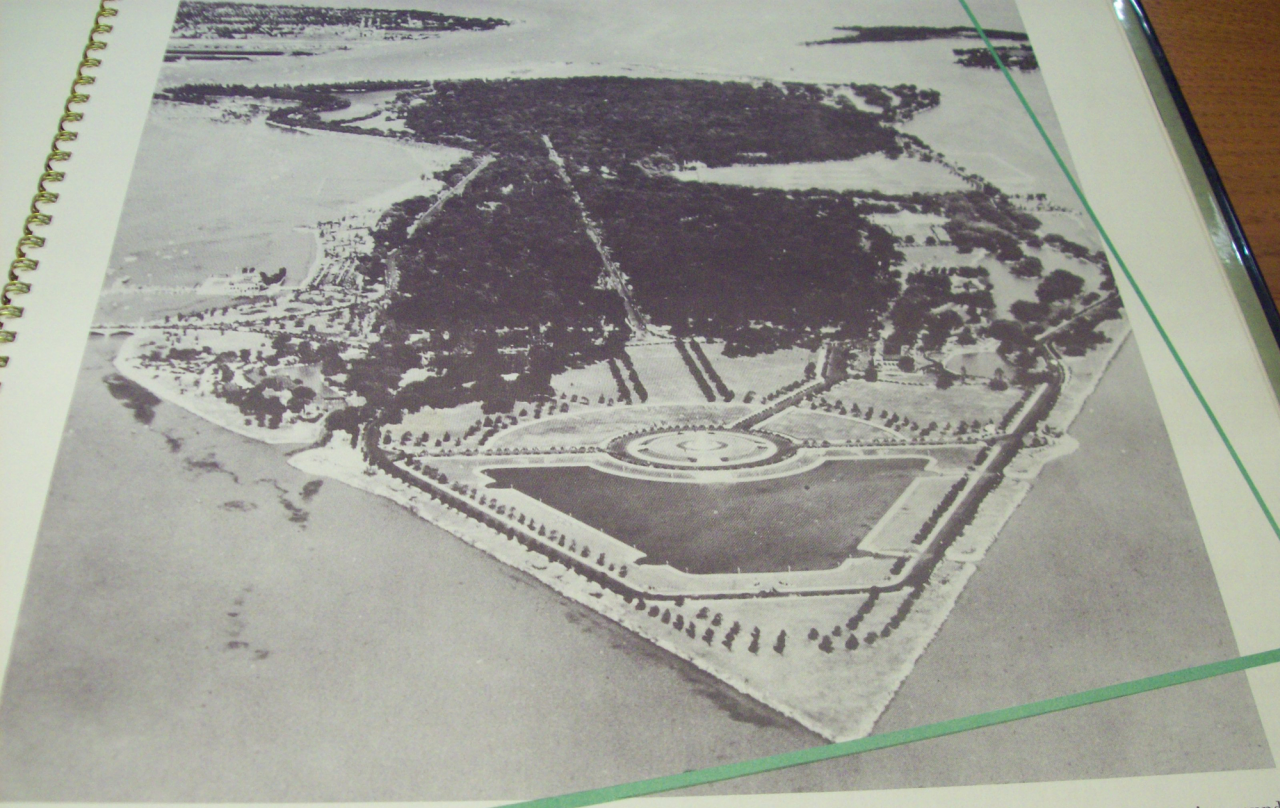

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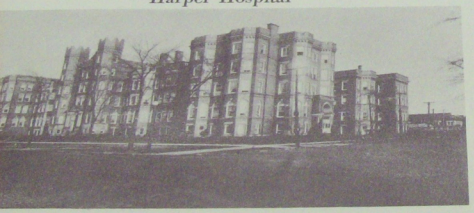
# HEALTH

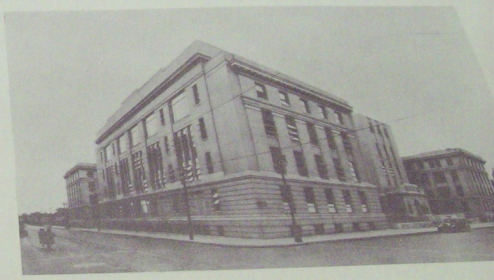
*Detroit has some of the finest hospitals in the country. Among the larger of these are Henry Ford, shown above, Harper, Providence, Grace, Receiving, Herman Kiefer, St. Mary's, St. Joseph Mercy, Highland Park General Hospital.*

Harper Hospital

Herman Kiefer Hospital



*Providence Hospital*



Detroit Receiving Hospital

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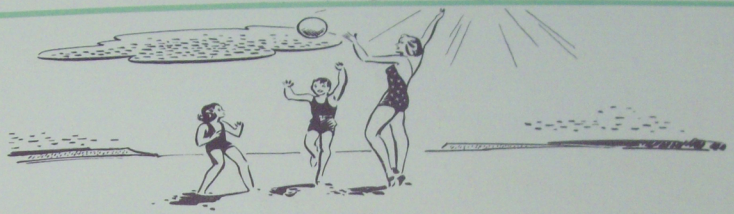

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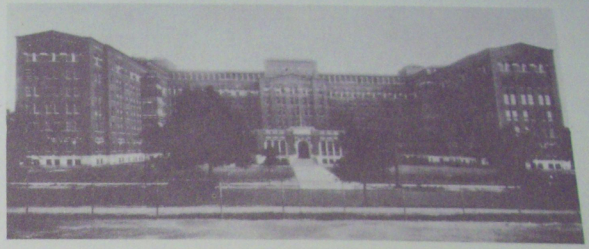

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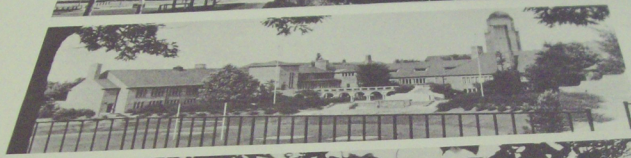
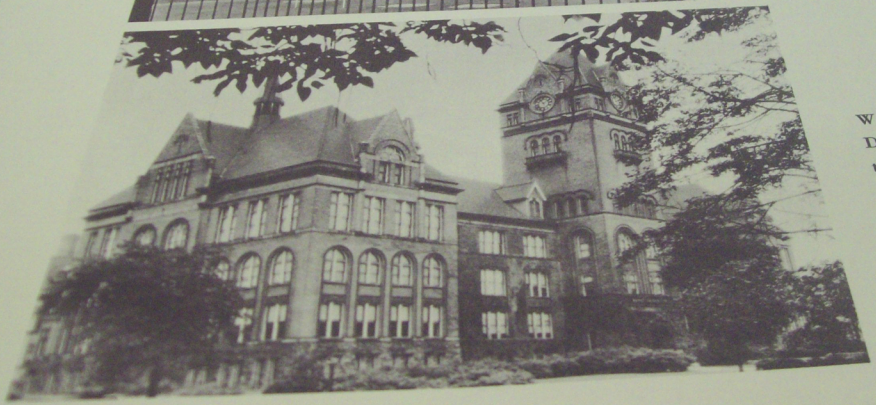
# EDUCATION

A view of Tower Lane at the University of Detroit, showing the rich Spanish notes of the Arts and Commerce building, the Chemistry, Aerodynamics and Engineering buildings, and the Memorial Tower in the background.



The Cranbrook School for boys in Bloomfield Hills, just north of Detroit, is a model preparatory school. Many of its progressive innovations in youthful education have been followed by other schools throughout the country.



Wayne University is conducted by the Detroit Board of Education and is one of the important universities in the city. It is located conveniently in the heart of Detroit and is rapidly assuming a position of importance in the world of education.

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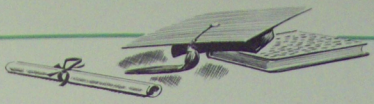

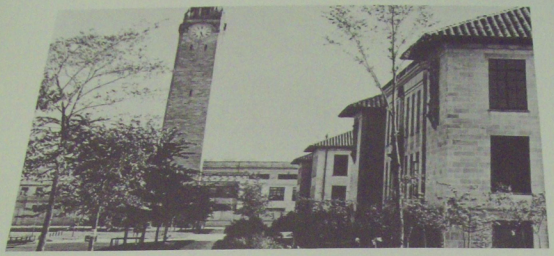

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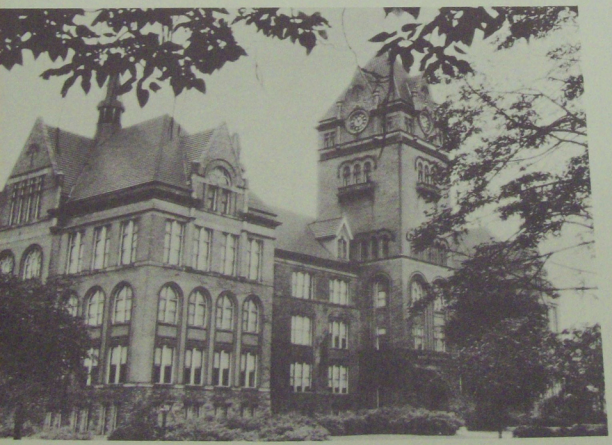

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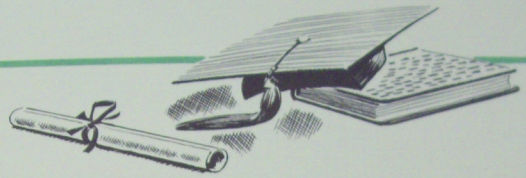

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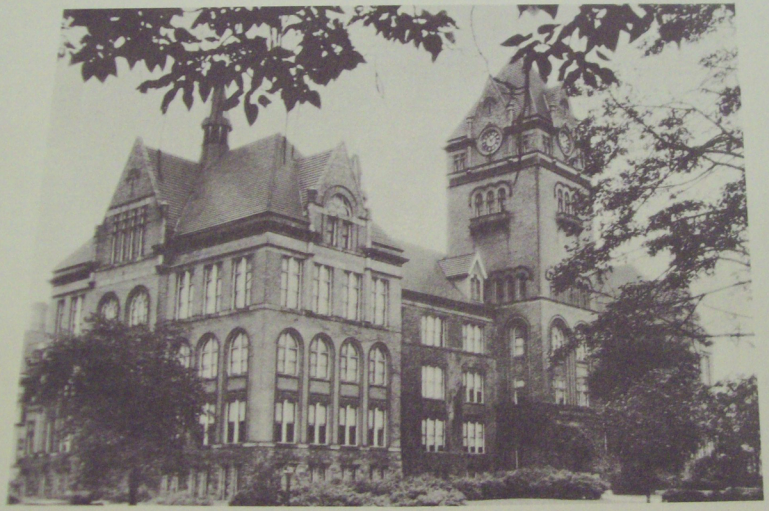

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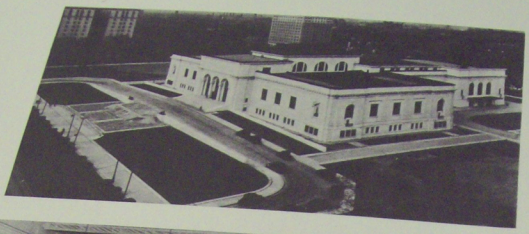
*The University of Michigan* at Ann Arbor, recognized as one of the world's leading educational institutions. Its influence is felt all over the globe.

# CULTURE



Detroit Institute of Arts, another unit of Detroit's famous art center. In the halls of this magnificent early Renaissance building are many of the world's art treasures. Here, too, art lovers find the best work of contemporary artists.

Detroit's Symphony Orchestra exercises its cultural value to the city, not only through its regular subscription concerts, but through popular price concerts, free concerts for school children, and open air concerts on Belle Isle.

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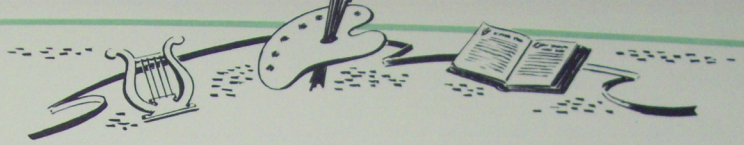

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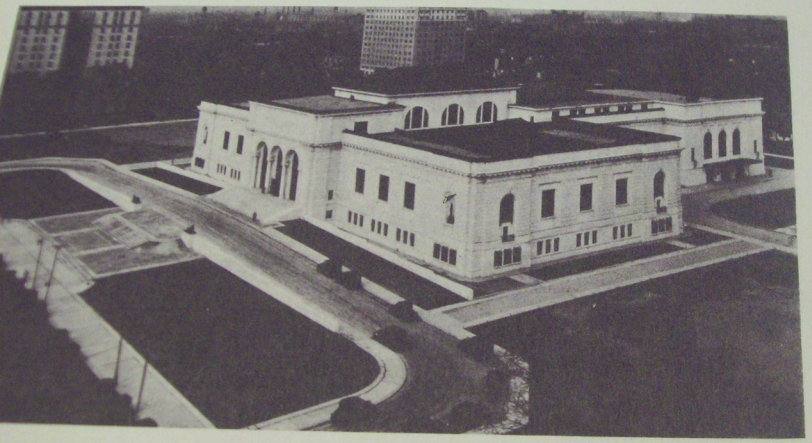

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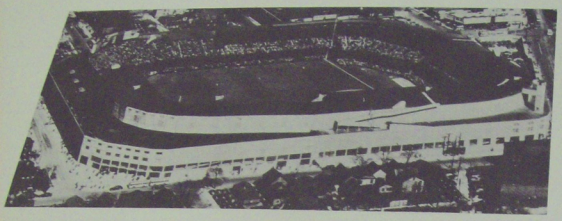
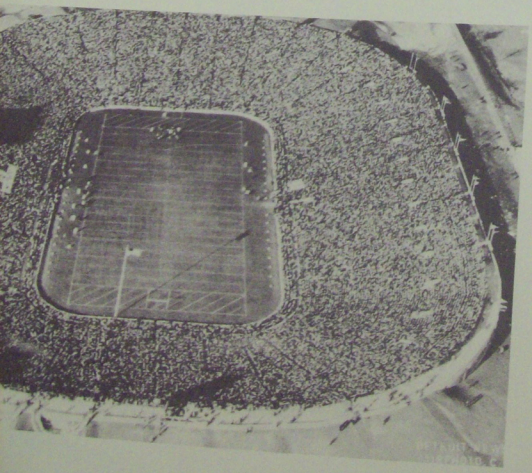
*Ford's Greenfield Village*, presenting a picture of American progress from Colonial days, is one of the most interesting points about Detroit.

# SPORTS



Baseball is the game that every American at some time plays, and everyone goes to see. Continued interest in the sport makes possible the great teams such as the Detroit Tigers, whose 55,000 seat Briggs Stadium, shown here, is crowded every afternoon during the season.

The speed and thrilling action of ice hockey attracts thousands of sport-minded followers every year in Detroit. Whatever the sport . . . on field or track, on rink or court, Detroiters respond to its pulse-quickening tempo.



Here is pictured the University of Michigan Stadium packed with 80,000 cheering fans at a Big Ten Conference Football game. Football, truly America's greatest inter-scholastic sport, brings out thousands of Detroiters every fall to witness the colorful drama of the gridiron.

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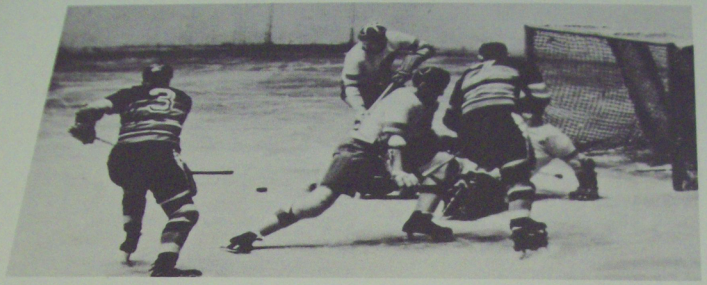

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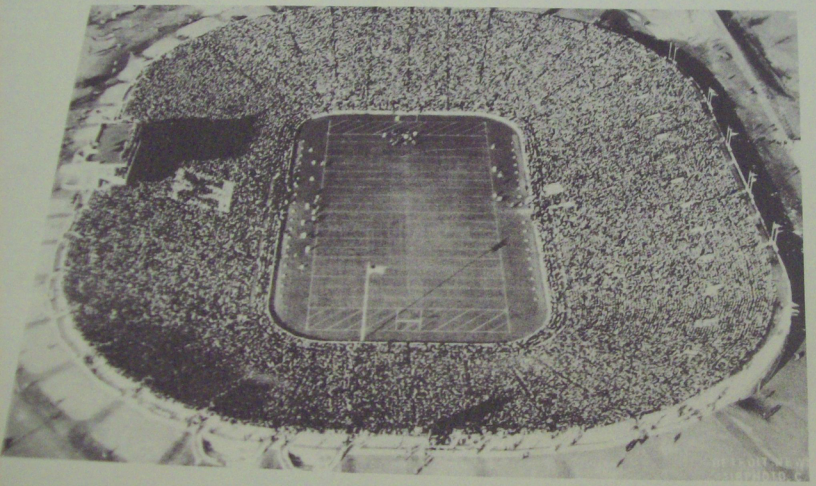

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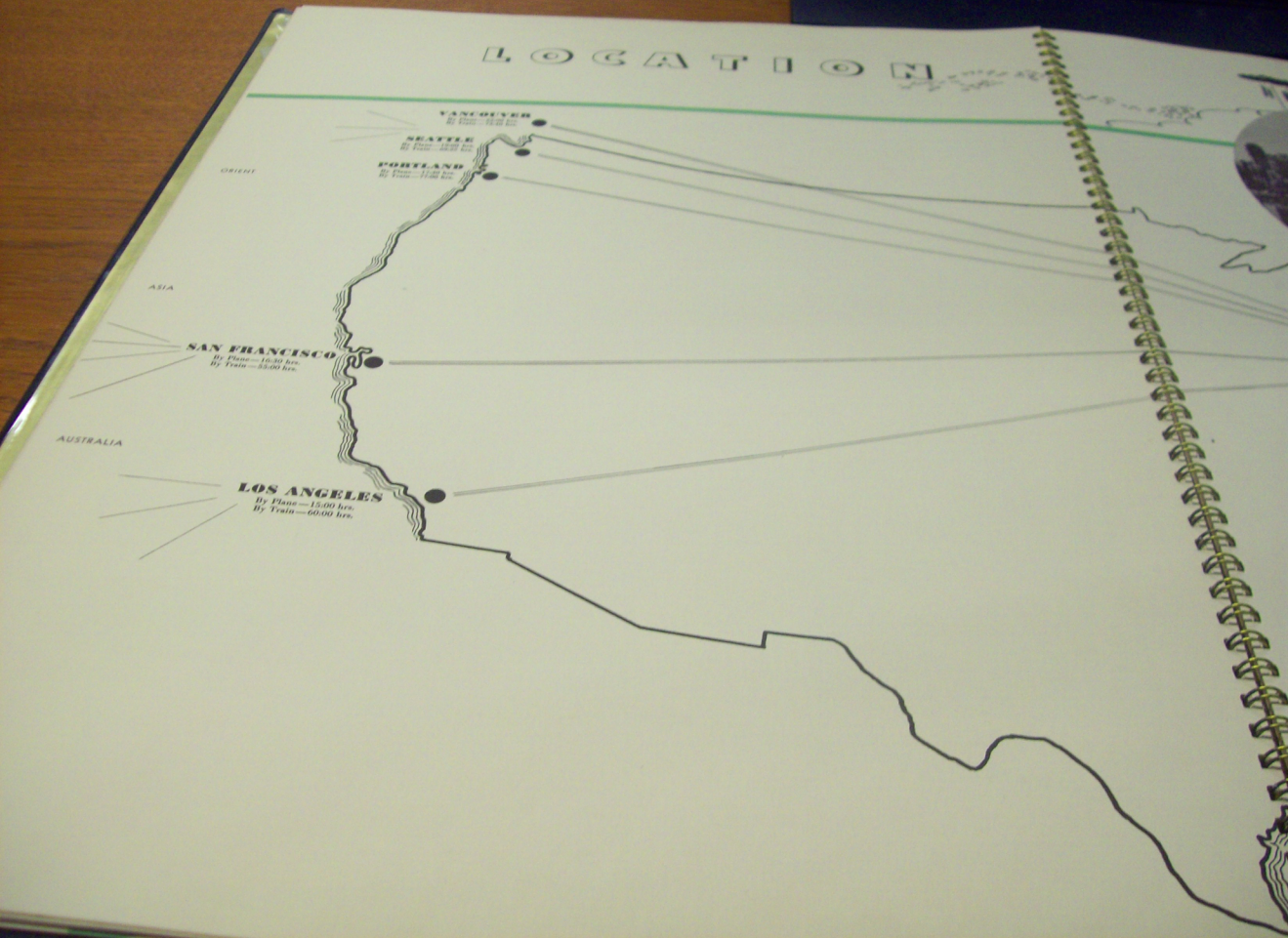
*Sport to watch, like the exciting football play shown here, or sport for everyone, like boating or swimming, wins enthusiastic support from Detroiters.*


LOCATION
VANCOUVER
By Plane—1h30 hrs.
By Train—16h00 hrs.
SEATTLE
By Plane—1h00 hrs.
By Train—15h00 hrs.
PORTLAND
By Plane—1h30 hrs.
By Train—17h00 hrs.
ORIENT
ASIA
SAN FRANCISCO
By Plane—1h30 hrs.
By Train—35h00 hrs.
AUSTRALIA
LOS ANGELES
By Plane—1h00 hrs.
By Train—60h00 hrs.

MONTREAL

BOSTON

DETROIT

NEW YORK

PHILADELPHIA

BALTIMORE

EUROPE

AFRICA

CENTRAL AMERICA

SOUTH AMERICA

Direct extensions of the highways, railroads and airlines, radiating from the center of Detroit, reach the principal ports of entry of the United States and pass through or close by the large inland centers of population. Detroit's location and transportation facilities cut distances of hundreds of miles to but a few hours of traveling time by train or plane. However the visitor comes to Detroit . . . by private motor car, by bus, by plane, train or waterway . . . every convenience of rapid transportation invites him.

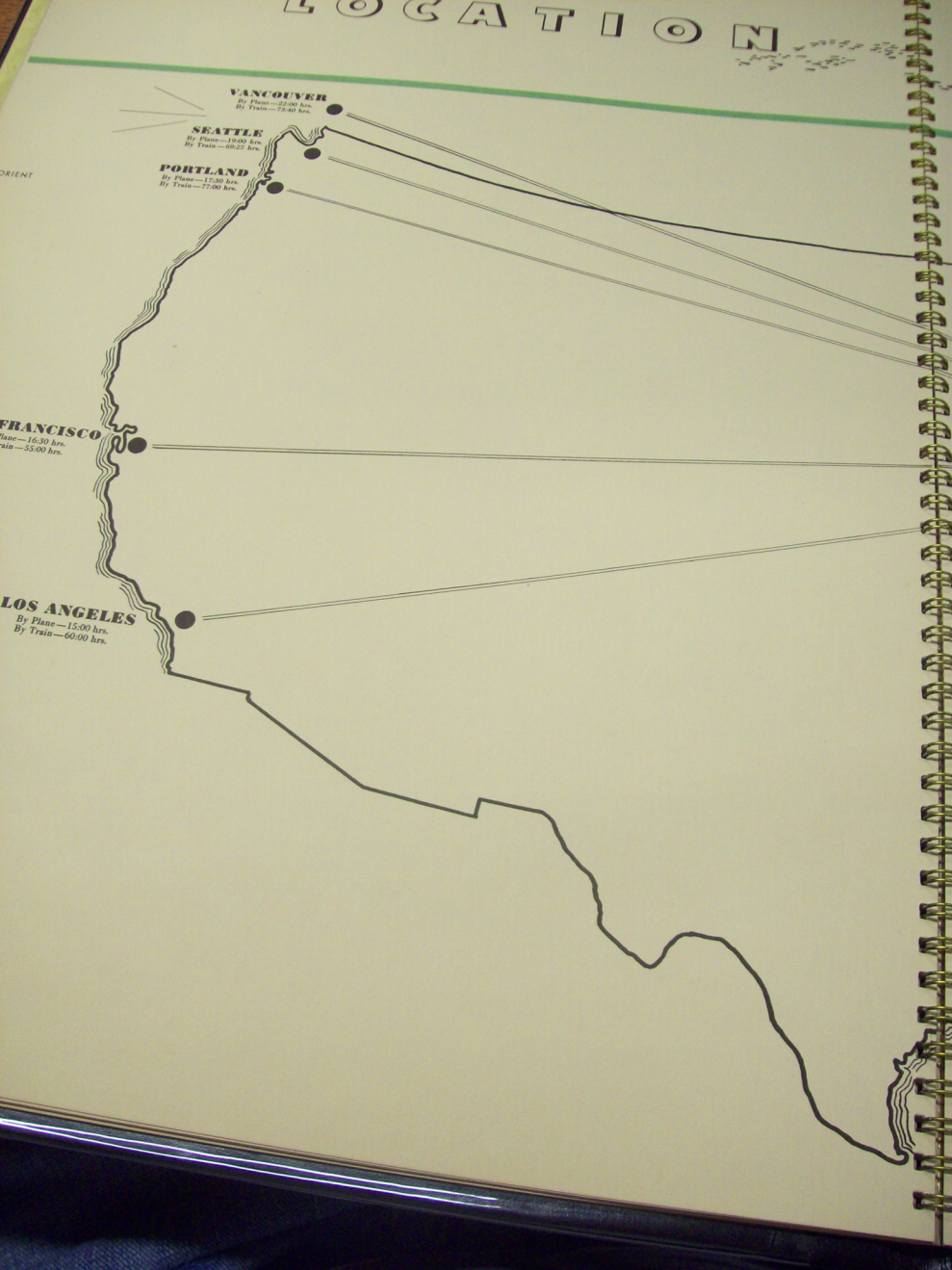
**NEW ORLEANS**

By Plane—9:00 hrs.
By Train—38:00 hrs.

**MIAMI**

By Plane — 15:00 hrs.
By Train — 43:00 hrs.

# LOCATION


VANCOUVER
By Plane—22:00 hrs.
By Train—73:40 hrs.
SEATTLE
By Plane—19:00 hrs.
By Train—69:25 hrs.
PORTLAND
By Plane—17:30 hrs.
By Train—77:00 hrs.
ORIENT
FRANCISCO
lane—16:30 hrs.
ain—55:00 hrs.
LOS ANGELES
By Plane—15:00 hrs.
By Train—60:00 hrs.

MONTREAL
By Plane—1:00 hrs.
By Train—14:00 hrs.

EUROPE

DETROIT

BOSTON
By Plane—2:30 hrs.
By Train—16:00 hrs.

AFRICA

NEW YORK
By Plane—2:15 hrs.
By Train—12:15 hrs.

PHILADELPHIA
By Plane—3:00 hrs.
By Train—14:00 hrs.

BALTIMORE
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By Train—14:00 hrs.

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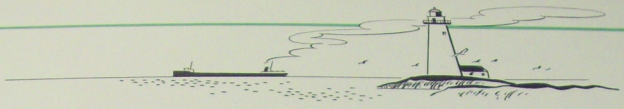
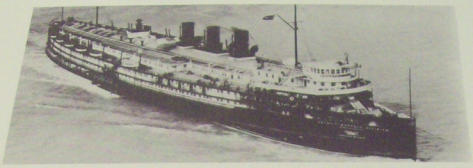
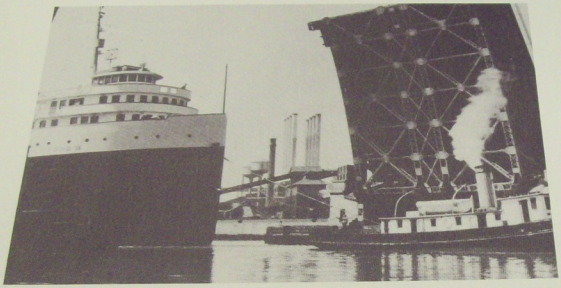
# GREAT LAKES

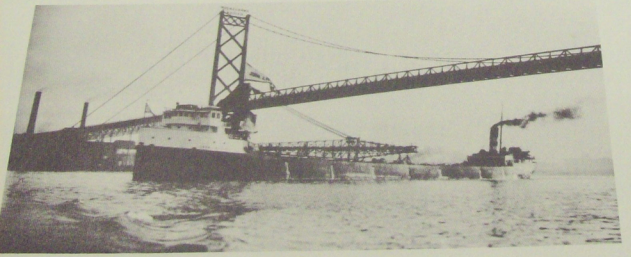




Few people realize the immensity of the Great Lakes . . . 94,710 square miles . . . more than twice the combined area of Belgium, the Netherlands and Denmark. Every mile of these great inland seas is crisscrossed by palatial passenger boats like this.



Fort Street Bridge, Detroit, opens to admit the passage of lake and ocean freighters from the Detroit River up to the River Rouge docks. Detroit in 1937 had an export trade valued at $190,223,000 . . . much of which was shipped direct from Detroit by water.



The Ambassador Bridge from Detroit to Windsor, Canada. The ship is one of that great fleet of Great Lakes freighters which carried through the Detroit River, in 1937, a total of 113,836,956 tons of freight, valued at a billion and a quarter dollars.

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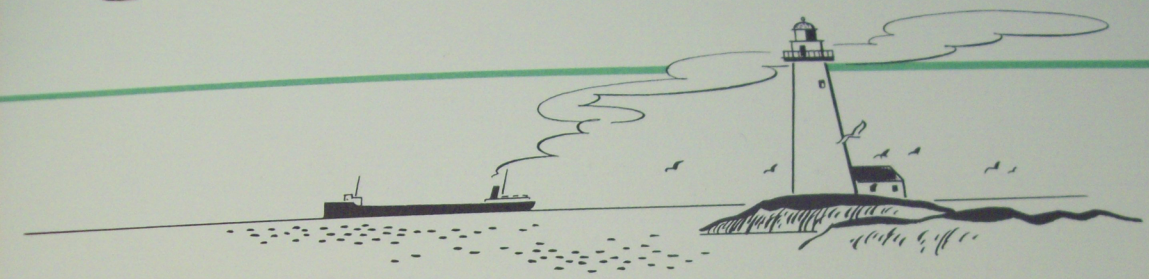

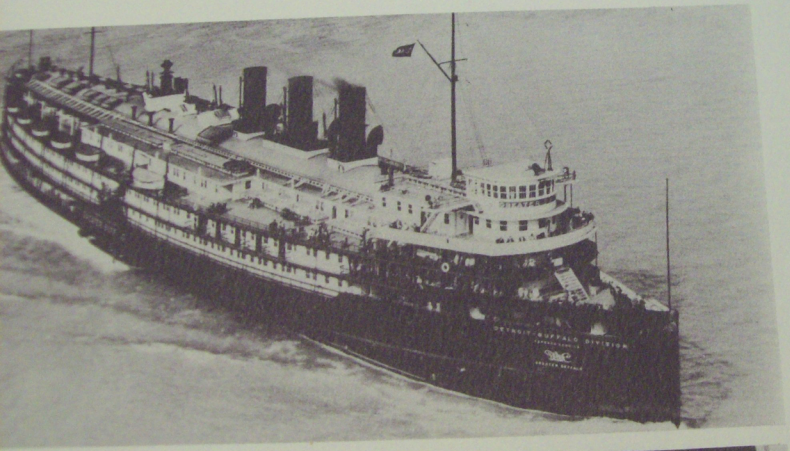

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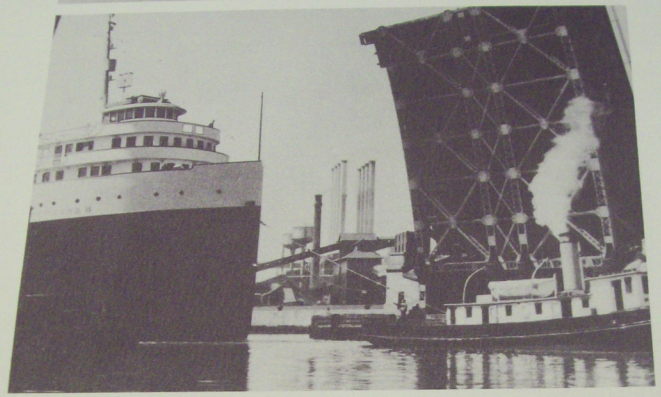

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CANADA
LAKE SUPERIOR
WISCONSIN
LAKE MICHIGAN
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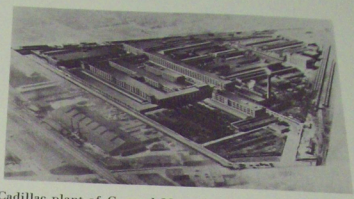
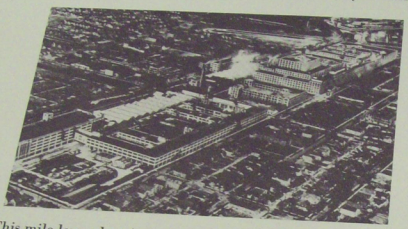
LAKE ST. CLAIR
LAKE ONTARIO
LAKE ERIE
DETROIT
NEW YORK
PENNSYLVANIA
IOWA
INDIANA
OHIO
UNITED STATES
WEST VIRGINIA
ILLINOIS
KENTUCKY
VIRGINIA
W
E
S
SCALE OF MILES
0 50 100 150

# INDUSTRY

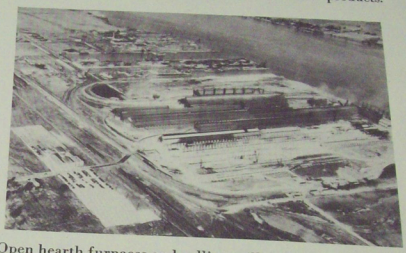
Detroit leads the world in the manufacture of motor cars. This is the Dodge Brothers plant of the Chrysler Corporation . . . also makers of DeSoto, Plymouth and Chrysler cars.



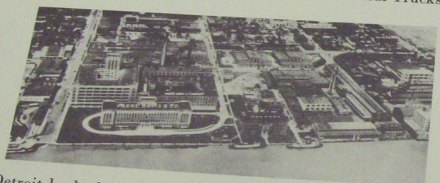
Cadillac plant of General Motors, who also make LaSalle, Buick, Oldsmobile, Pontiac and Chevrolet cars, G. M. C. Trucks, Diesel Engines, Frigidaires and other products.



This mile long plant is the home of world famous Packard motor cars. Also built in Detroit are Hudson, Terraplane, Hupmobile, Graham and Lincoln cars and Federal Trucks.



Open hearth furnaces and rolling mills of Great Lakes Steel Corporation . . . another of the many diversified lines in which Detroit is among the leaders in the United States.



Detroit leads the world in the manufacture of pharmaceutical and biological products . . . of which Parke, Davis & Co., shown above, are the world's largest individual producers.

Calculating, recording and writing machines, too, are a leading Detroit industry. Burroughs Adding Machine Company, shown above, are the world's largest manufacturers.

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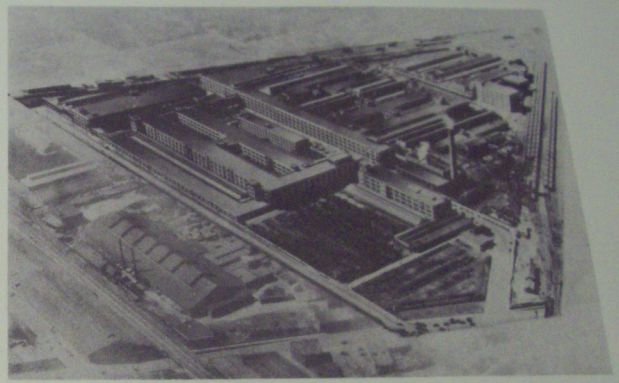

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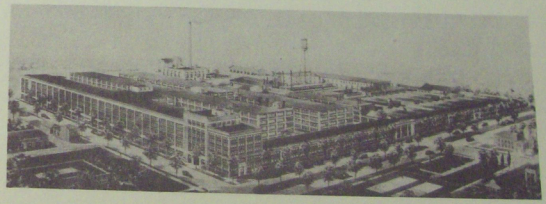

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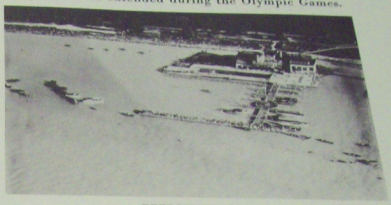
# HOTELS...CLUBS

A few of the larger of Detroit's many clubs whose hospitality would be extended during the Olympic Games.

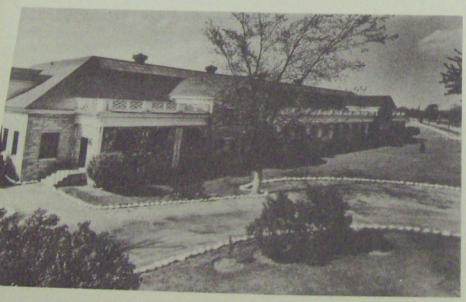
DETROIT ATHLETIC CLUB



DETROIT BOAT CLUB

DETROIT CLUB

WOMEN'S CITY CLUB



BLOOMFIELD OPEN HUNT CLUB

DETROIT GOLF CLUB

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DETROIT BOAT CLUB

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# PRESENT FACILITIES

The Detroit River, between Belle Isle Park and Detroit, is the scene every year of many regattas, sail boat and power boat races. Its sheltered position and ample dockage facilities adapt it particularly to this type of Olympic event.

Diving, plunging, water polo and many other swimming events can be held at the Municipal Pool site in River Rouge Park, where the new Swimming Stadium and Olympic Stadium are planned.

Scene of many a hard fought race, the Detroit River in front of the Detroit Yacht Club gets, almost every year, such speed boat classics as the Harmsworth Trophy Race and Gold Cup Races. Judges' stands are always on club dock.

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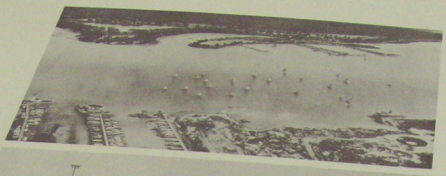

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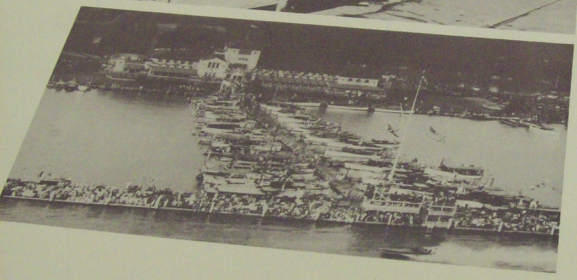

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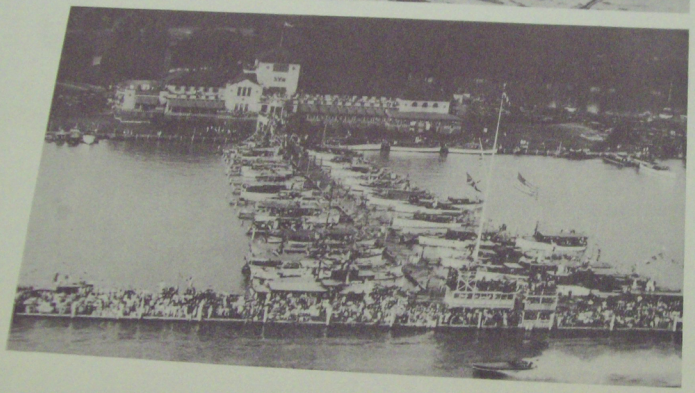

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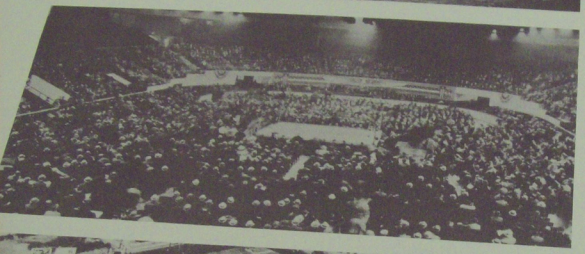
*Conveniently located on beautiful Lake St. Clair, the club house and yacht basin of Grosse Pointe Yacht Club are suitable for many aquatic events.*

# PRESENT FACILITIES

CONTINUED

Ideal for equestrian trials and many other Olympic events, the Coliseum at the Michigan State Fair Grounds, seating 15,000 people, is within the city. Bloomfield Open Hunt, near Detroit, is also available for similar events.



Detroit's Olympia Stadium, seating 17,000 people, is particularly suited for wrestling, fencing, boxing, weight-lifting, and many similar indoor events. It is located close to downtown Detroit.

Cycling races and similar events can easily be accommodated in the stadium of the University of Detroit, shown above, which seats 20,000, or at the State Fair Track, shown opposite. Both locations are within the city limits.

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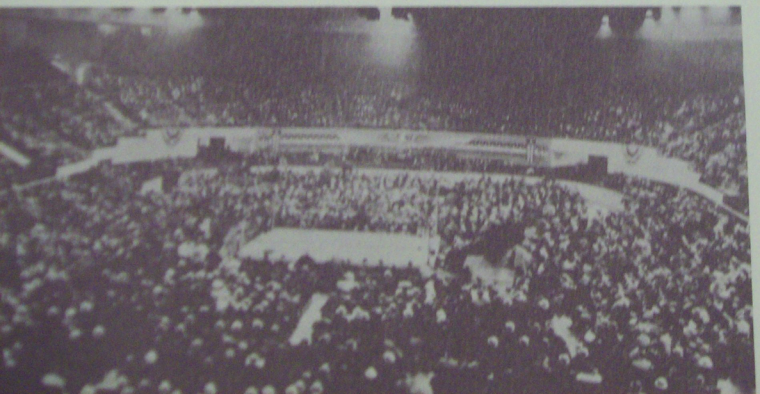

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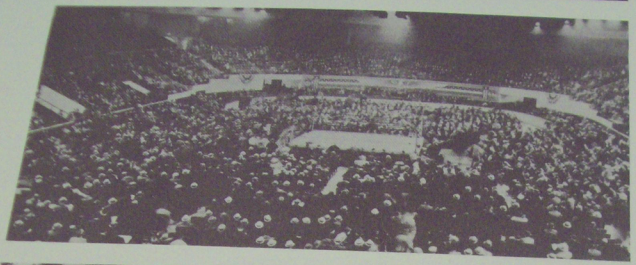

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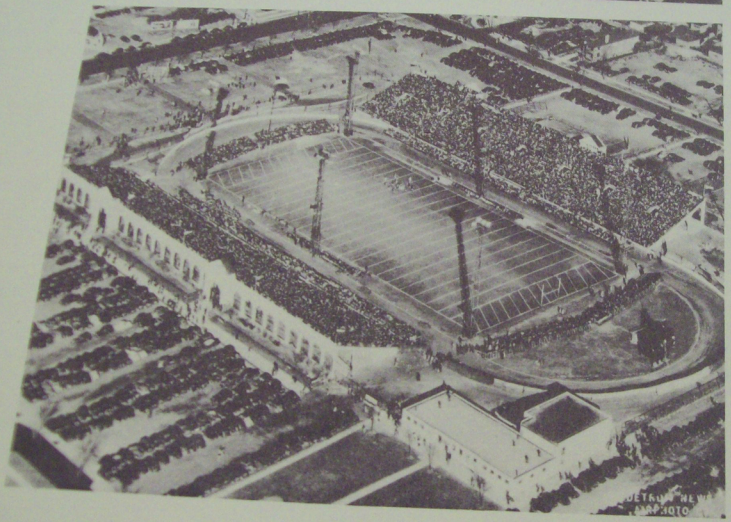

Cycling races and similar events can easily be accommodated in the stadium of the University of Detroit, shown above, which seats 20,000, or at the State Fair Track, shown opposite. Both locations are within the city limits.

*Michigan State Fair Grounds.* The fast mile track, club house, grandstand, Coliseum, and many other buildings, are suitable for Olympic use.

*River Rouge Park from the air looking south toward Detroit. In the middle foreground appears the River Rouge Park swimming pool, projected site of the new swimming stadium. Conveniently located to the left is the contemplated site of the Olympic stadium. Located thus, these two new stadia will be close enough to the city of Detroit proper to be easily reached by spectators. Their setting in spacious River Rouge Park will form an ideal stage for the immortal drama of a modern Olympiad.*

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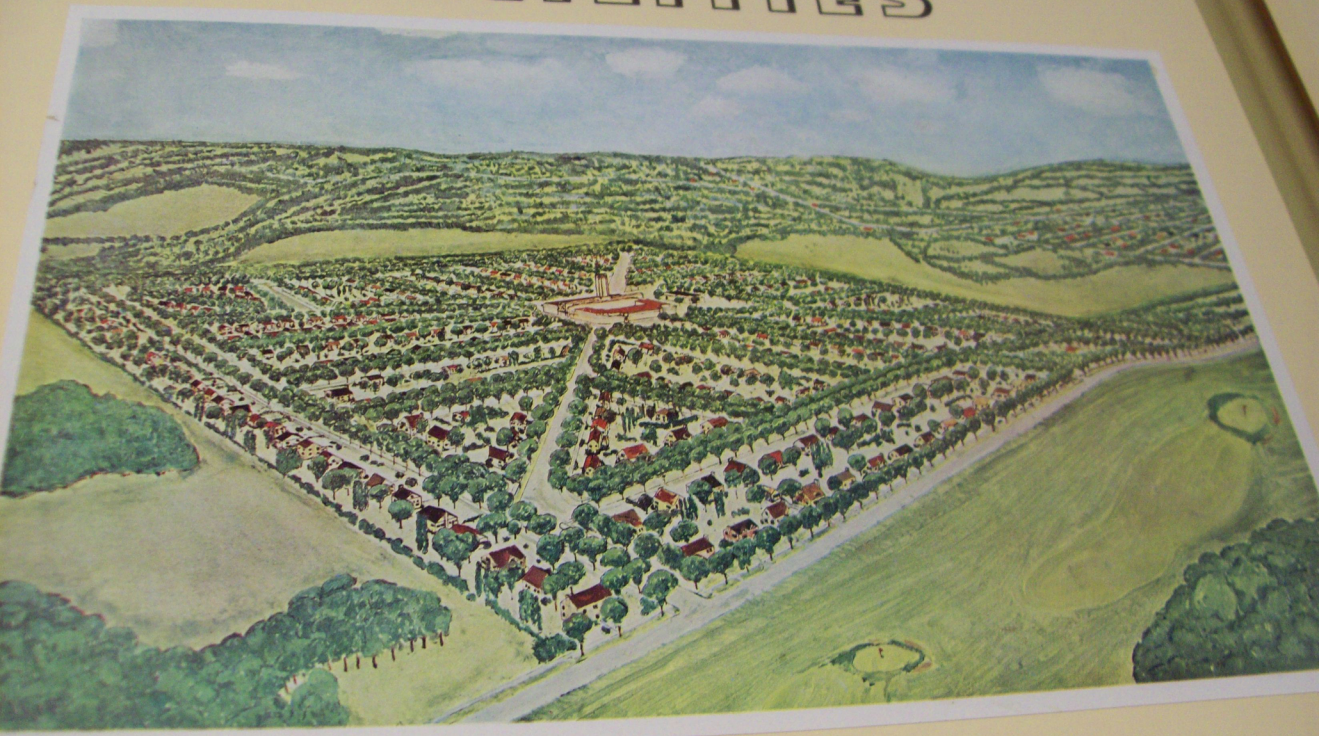
# PROJECTED FACILITIES



Projected Olympic Village to be erected on a site convenient to the city and stadia.

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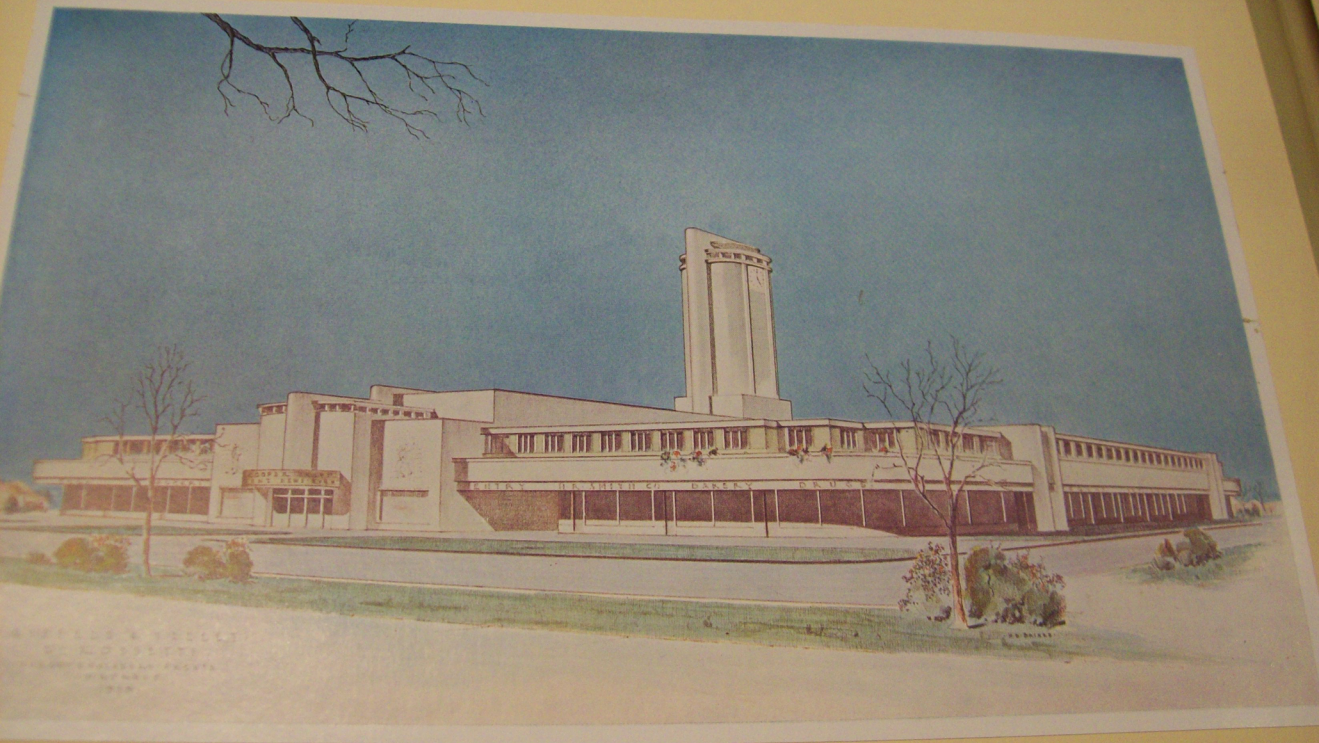
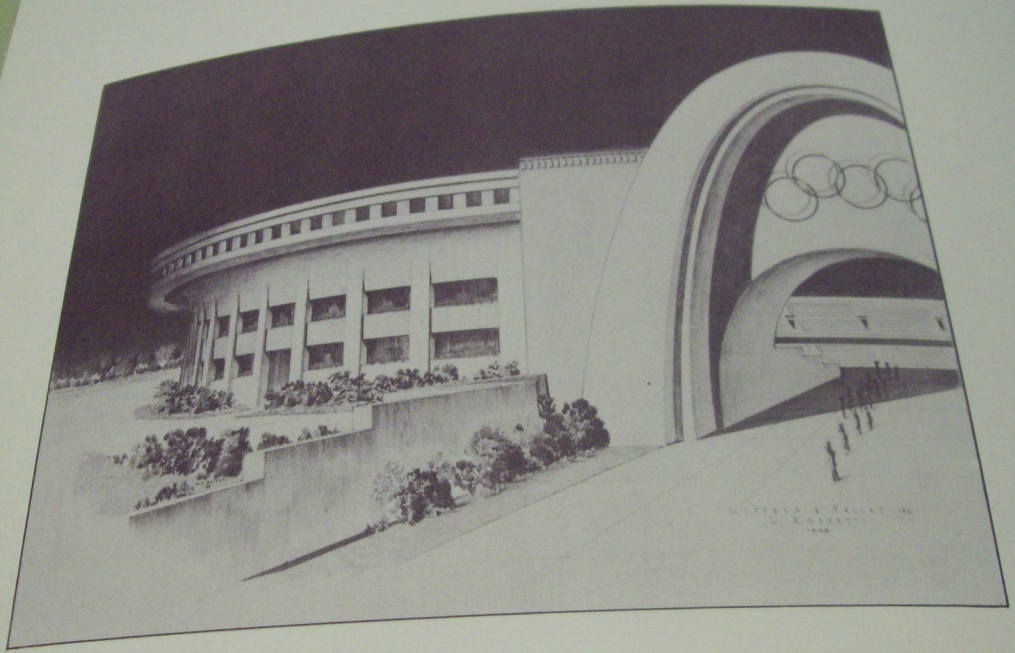
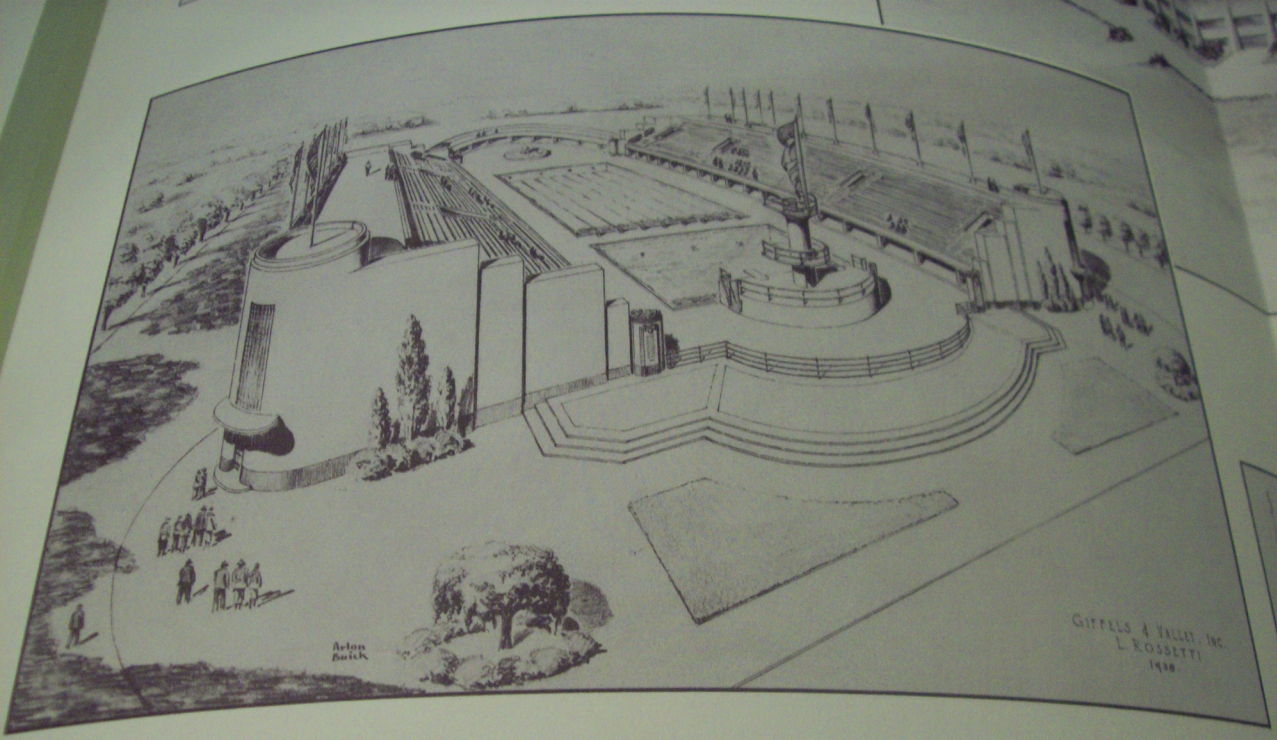
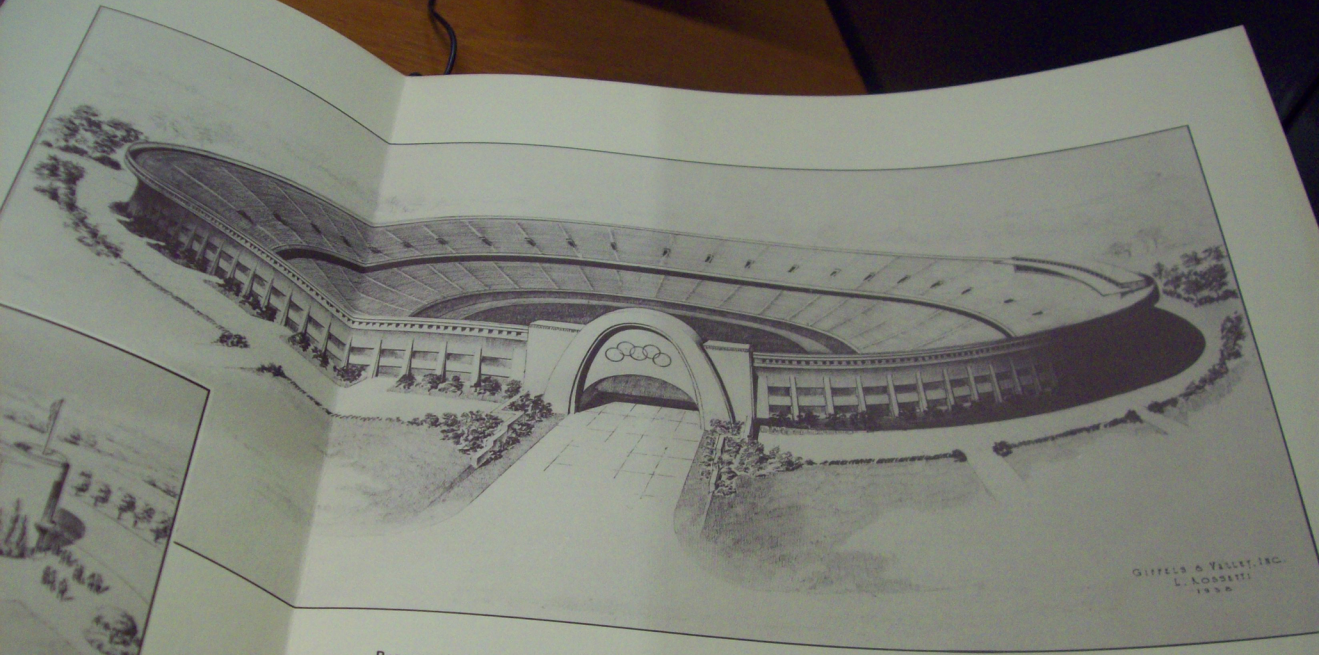


Study of Olympic Village Central Building, with auditorium and administration facilities.






*Swimming Stadium* which is planned to be erected on the present site of River Rouge Park pool ... to seat 15,000 people. The pool is divided so that diving and swimming events may be held simultaneously. Stair towers are provided for access by spectators directly to the upper promenades.




Proposed Olympic Stadium seating 110,000 spectators. All spectators enter stadium at ground level and reach upper and lower rows of seats by ramps. Adequate space provided for judges, referees, Olympic Committee officials, members of the press, first aid and medical centers. Below, left, sectional view of ramp and seat row construction. Below, right, the lower bowl seating 55,000 people which is planned to be built in anticipation of the completed stadium

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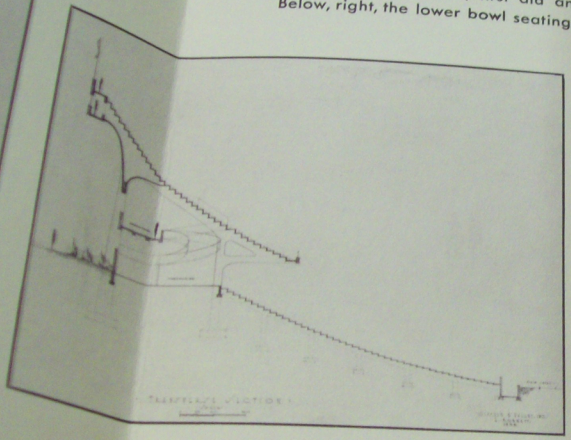
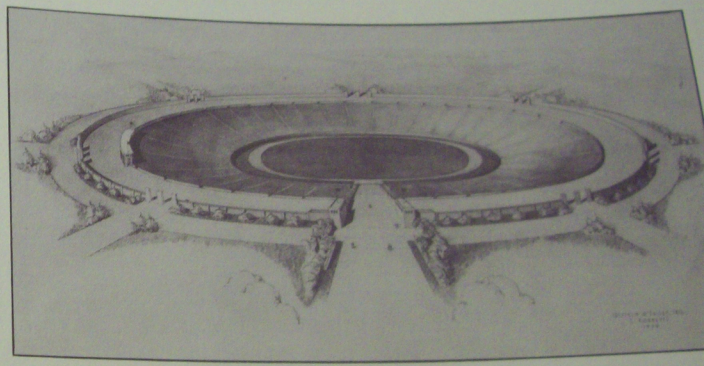
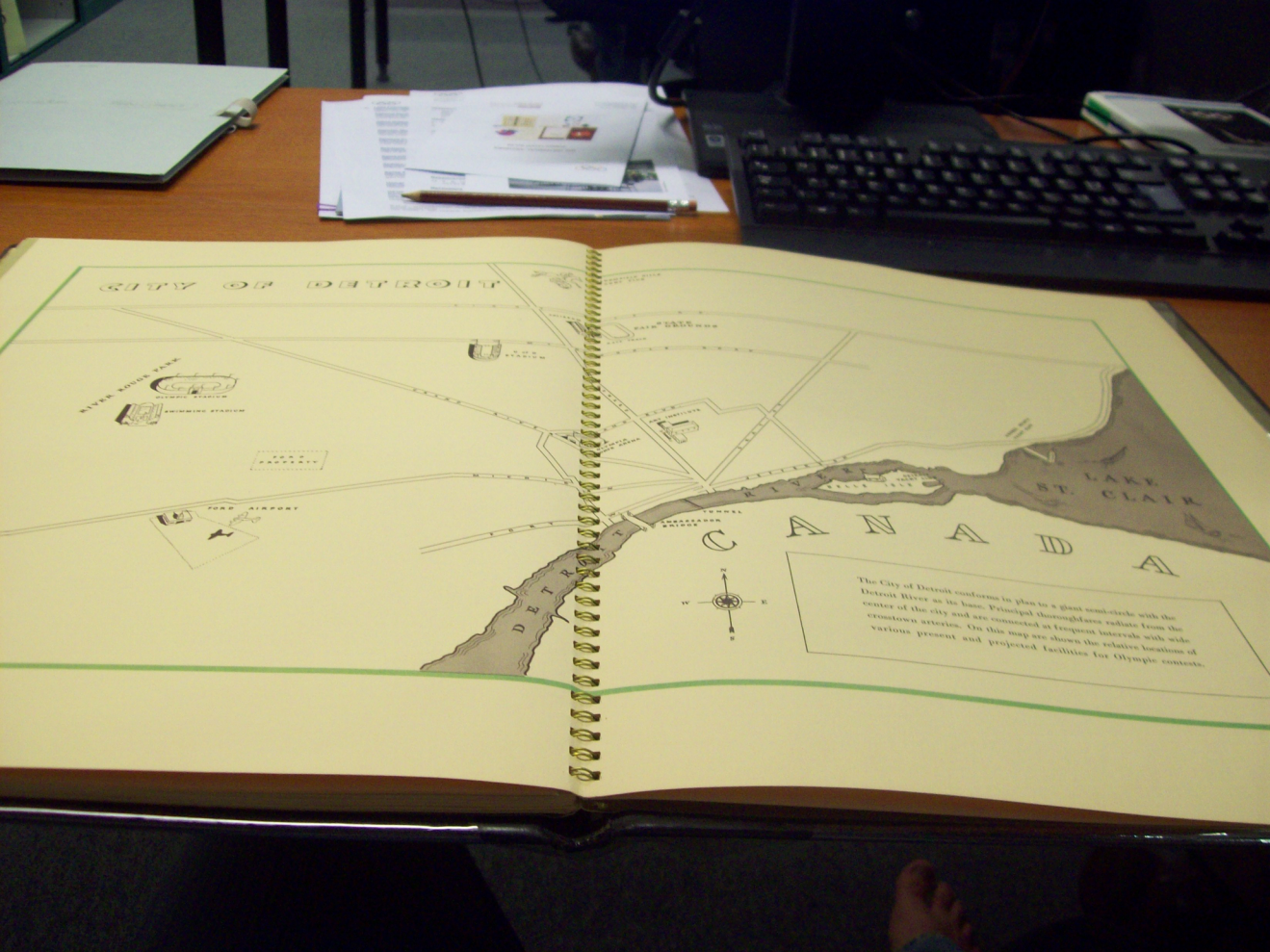
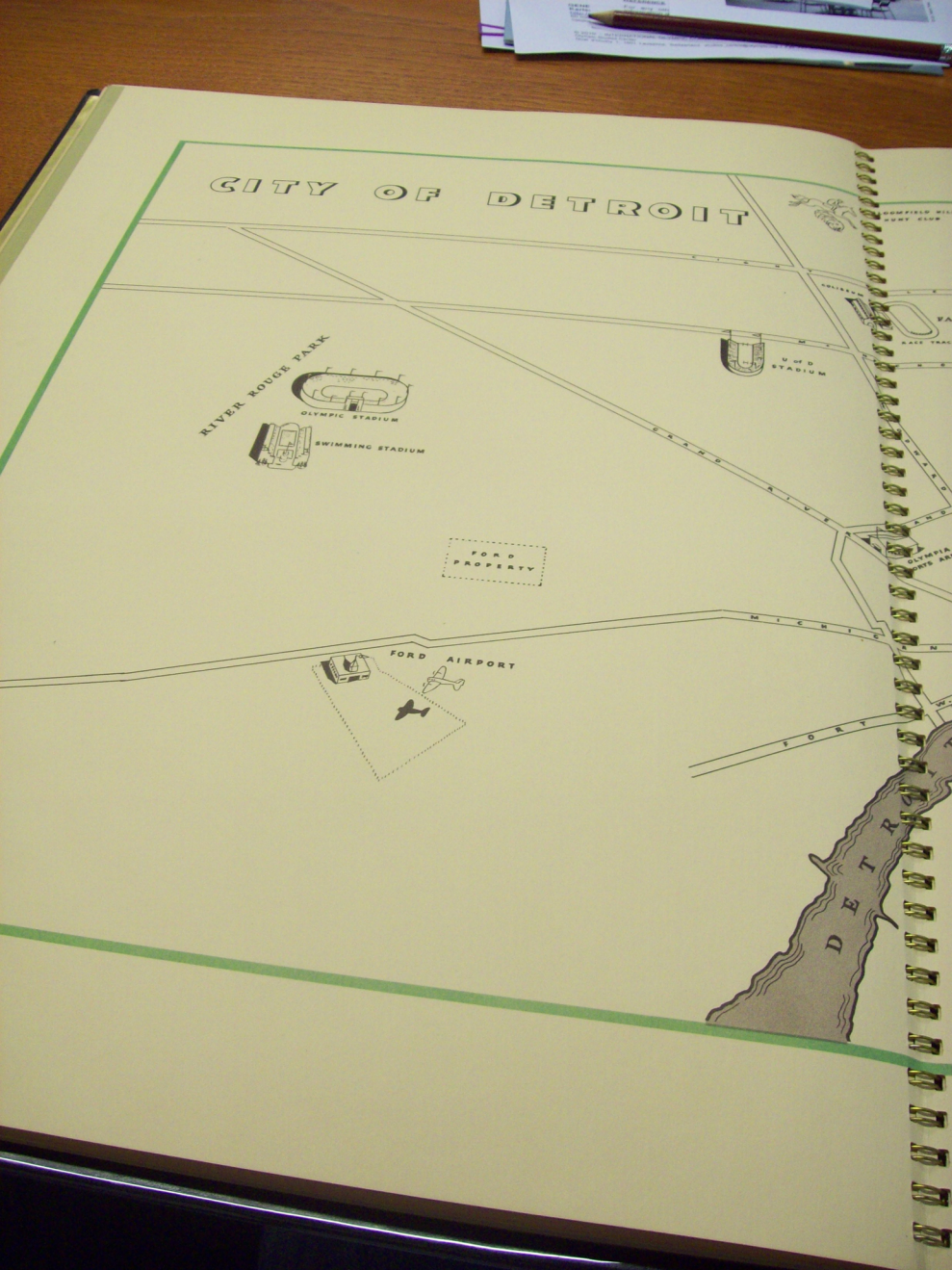
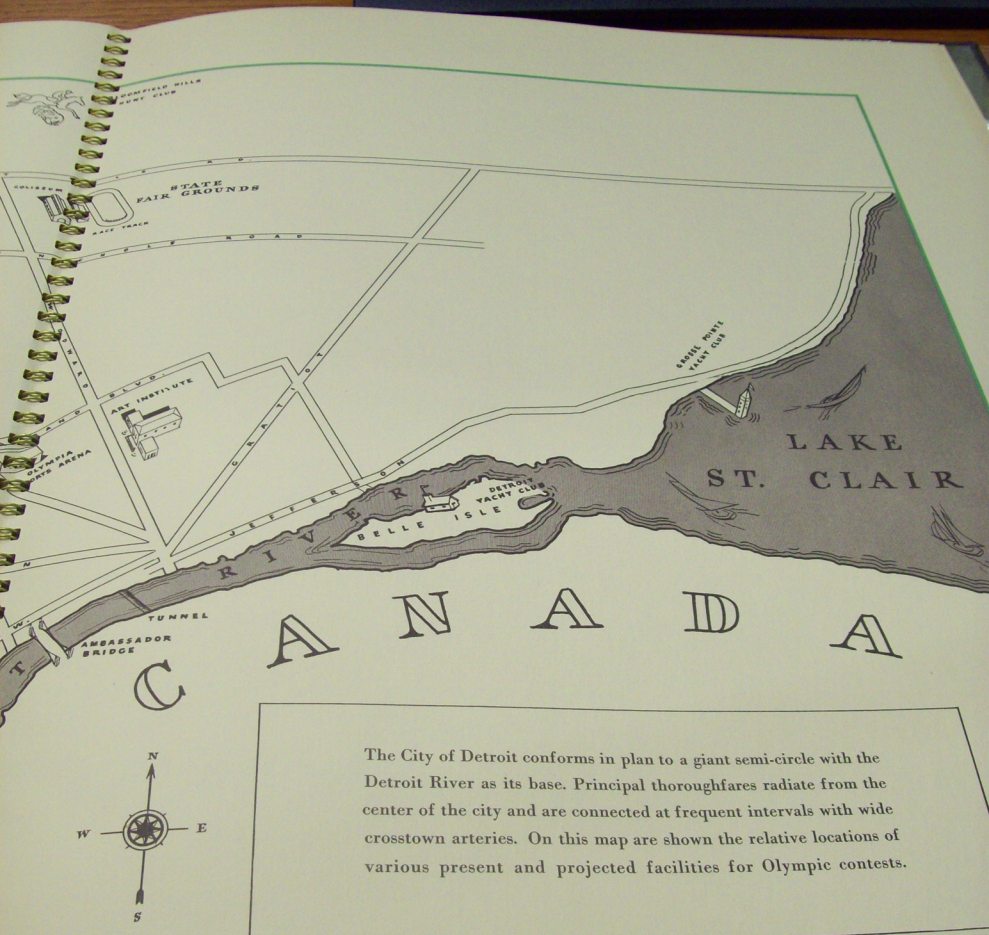





CITY OF DETROIT
RIVER HOUSE PARK
OLYMPIC STADIUM
SWIMMING STADIUM
STATE FAIRGROUNDS
FORD AIRPORT
DETROIT
LAKE ST. CLAIR
CANADA
The City of Detroit conforms in plan to a giant semi-circle with the Detroit River as its base. Principal thoroughfares radiate from the center of the city and are connected at frequent intervals with wide crosstown arteries. On this map are shown the relative locations of various present and projected facilities for Olympic contests.


CITY OF DETROIT
RIVER ROUGE PARK
OLYMPIC STADIUM
SWIMMING STADIUM
U of D STADIUM
GRAND RIVER
FORD PROPERTY
FORD AIRPORT
MICHIGAN
FORT
DETROIT







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"WE, the undersigned, on behalf of the people of the City of Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A., are honored to present this invitation to the International Olympic Committee to hold the XIII Olympiad at Detroit in Nineteen Hundred and Forty-four."

Richard J. Reading

MAYOR, CITY OF DETROIT

Edward J. Jeffries, Jr.
Eugene I. VanAntwerp
Robert G. Gould
John C. Lodge
John O. Krone
Phelip Breitmeyer
Harry L. Dingeman
Henry S. Sweeny

MEMBERS OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

Ford Motor Company

ROUGE PLANT

DEARBORN, MICHIGAN

May 23, 1939

To the Members of the
International Olympic Committee
In Session in London, England

Honored Gentlemen:

The writer planned his annual trip to Europe this year to coincide with your meeting, in order to present this letter personally, but the pressure of business at the present time has made it necessary to postpone this year's European trip until the fall. Therefore, we are asking our representative to present this letter to you.

The people of the City of Detroit are anxious to have the XIII Olympiad held here in 1944. Detroit is an outstanding sports center, and Detroiters are keenly sport minded.

Detroit is located on the borderline between the United States and Canada, not far from the geographic center of population of North America, and is only a few hours distance by train or plane from seventy percent of the population of the United States. Detroit is ideally situated for Olympic game attendance, and airplanes, railroads, highways, and waterways spread out in every direction. Detroit can readily care for the thousands of visitors to be expected at an Olympiad.

Ambitious plans have been drawn up for new Olympiad facilities upon acceptance of Detroit as the location for the 1944 games.

The United States Olympic Committee has approved Detroit's application, and we respectfully ask your consideration of our invitation.

Yours very truly,

Chas. E. Sorensen

as E Sorensen-GNR