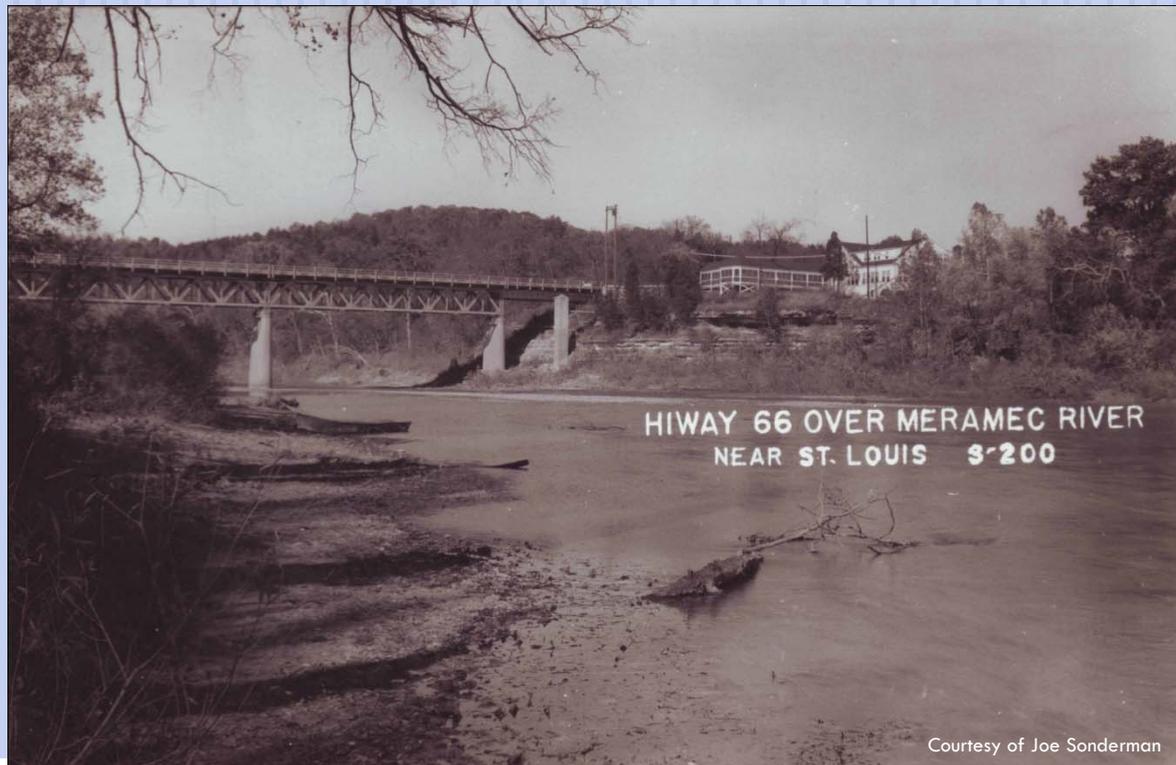


HISTORICAL OVERVIEW : ROUTE 66 MERAMEC RIVER BRIDGE

Jane Lee

MoDOT Historian



Courtesy of Joe Sonderman



The Establishment of Times Beach

GREATEST SUBSCRIPTION OFFER EVER MADE

By Subscribing for Six Months to

THE ST. LOUIS TIMES

You Can Secure a Summer Home Site at

TIMES BEACH

On the Meramec

TIMES BEACH

TIMES BEACH, the new summer resort, is located on the former Meramec River adjoining Barkers, Missouri. It is situated on one of the most beautiful parts of the Meramec River at the Times Beach, and has a long array of river frontage, all of which will be improved as an attractive park for the property owners of Times Beach.

The Meramec has always been the most popular playground for people of St. Louis, where they have enjoyed boating, fishing and fishing in the summer months away from the heat of St. Louis.

On this part of the Meramec the beach is unsurpassed for bathing and ideal for children, on account of the gradual slope.



Viewing on the Meramec at Times Beach



View of Times Beach at the Vista Bridge

THIS IS WHAT YOU GET FOR

\$67.50

- A BUILDING LOT AT TIMES BEACH
- EQUAL USE WITH OTHER LOT OWNERS OF THE SIXTY FOOT PARK AND BEACHES
- FREE MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY LODGE
- FREE USE OF THE BATH HOUSES AND DOCKS

All you have to do to avail yourself of this offer is to subscribe to **The St. Louis Times** FOR SIX MONTHS



Part of Beach at Times Beach

An Opportunity Not to Be Missed

The ST. LOUIS TIMES is not in the real estate business. We do not want to make a penny profit on the investment. We only desire to render real service to our readers. It is for this we are offering this extraordinary opportunity.

For months experts searched ceaselessly in every direction. Hundreds of locations were examined and discarded for no advantage or reason. Where Times Beach alone had every advantage we had desired and offered an opportunity to our readers.

Times Beach is the result of our best efforts to give to our subscribers a building lot in a most attractive location for a summer home at a minimum cost. This concerning the thousands of the readers of The St. Louis Times were closely.

Times Beach is an ideal place to build your family for the summer. You can have your own summer home at small expense, where they can enjoy every luxury, privilege or pleasure to be had at any summer resort.

This is your opportunity to build one or more homesites to rent for the summer at this time they receive a substantial income on your investment. It is also an opportunity to secure an investment from which we believe you will realize a handsome profit.

We never expect beach property to bring material and the demand is constantly increasing. When demand increases and supply decreases value at high rate.

The ST. LOUIS TIMES is justly proud of TIMES BEACH and feels that it is filling a great need for the people of St. Louis.

The New Summer Resort Developed by THE ST. LOUIS TIMES for its Readers
For Only \$67.50—\$10 Down, \$2.50 Monthly

All Lots One Price—All Owners Have Equal Rights to the Beaches, the Waterfront, Park and Free Membership in the Community Lodge
LOCATION MAP—ST. LOUIS TO TIMES BEACH

Best Route to TIMES BEACH
 In Order That Everyone Has an Equal Opportunity
No Lots Sold Before Noon Today



Follow the Arrows to Times Beach
 Telephone Main 2581-2582

OFFICE: BROADWAY AT CHESTNUT
 Open Evenings

The Park and Beaches
 The entire drainage on the Meramec River at Times Beach has been dedicated to a park. The park will be improved with many summer houses, bathhouses and playgrounds. There will also be a large open area for the use of the property owners.

The Community Lodge
 The St. Louis Times is making and installing a separate building for the use of the property owners. The building will be used for the use of the property owners and will be a valuable addition to the property.

Follow the Arrows to Times Beach

Act Now—Don't Wait

First Come, First Served ALL LOTS SAME PRICE
 To take advantage of this wonderful opportunity you must subscribe to The St. Louis Times for six months. They you can receive a free and clear deed for a lot at Times Beach—for only \$67.50—payable \$10.00 down and \$2.50 monthly. Each an monthly subscription entitles you to receive one lot. You must have the lot to say one individual. No lot reserved. We suggest that friends come together and order adjoining lots. This is the last offer of The St. Louis Times to its friends and readers. You have this opportunity of securing one or more lots to simply coming to the office of The Times and subscribing to the paper. Come today or if you cannot call at the office, get our mail card to fill out and mail today. But don't sit still, get out and get things done. We will be glad to see you as we will before the best locations go to those who come first.

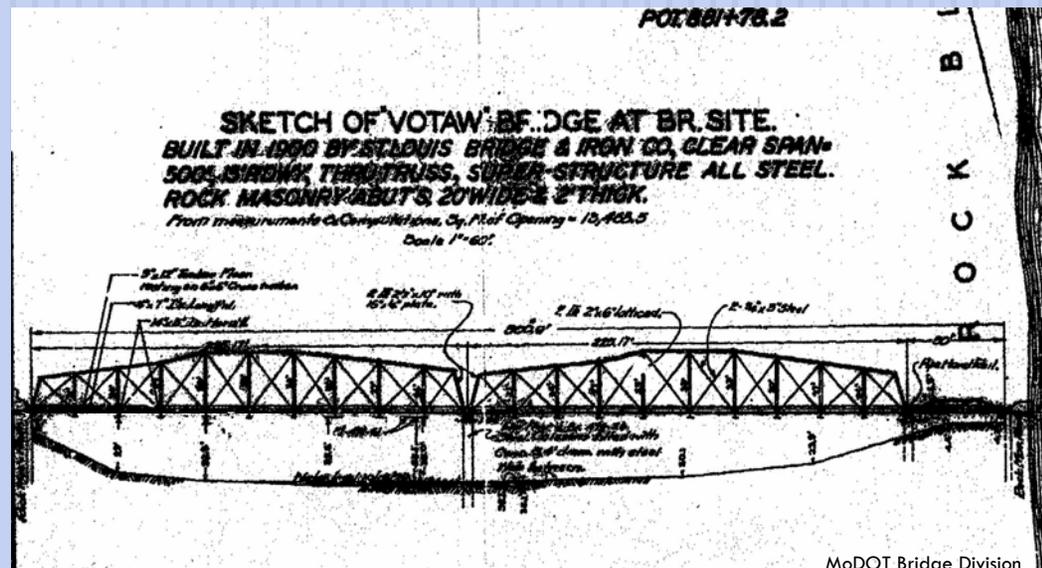
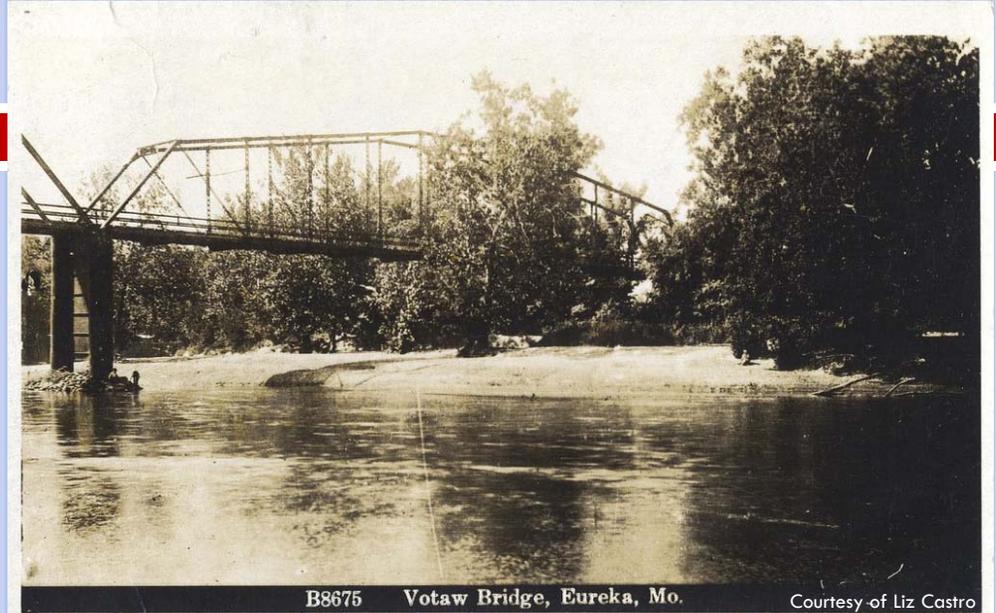
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St. Louis Times, Wednesday 12 August 1925

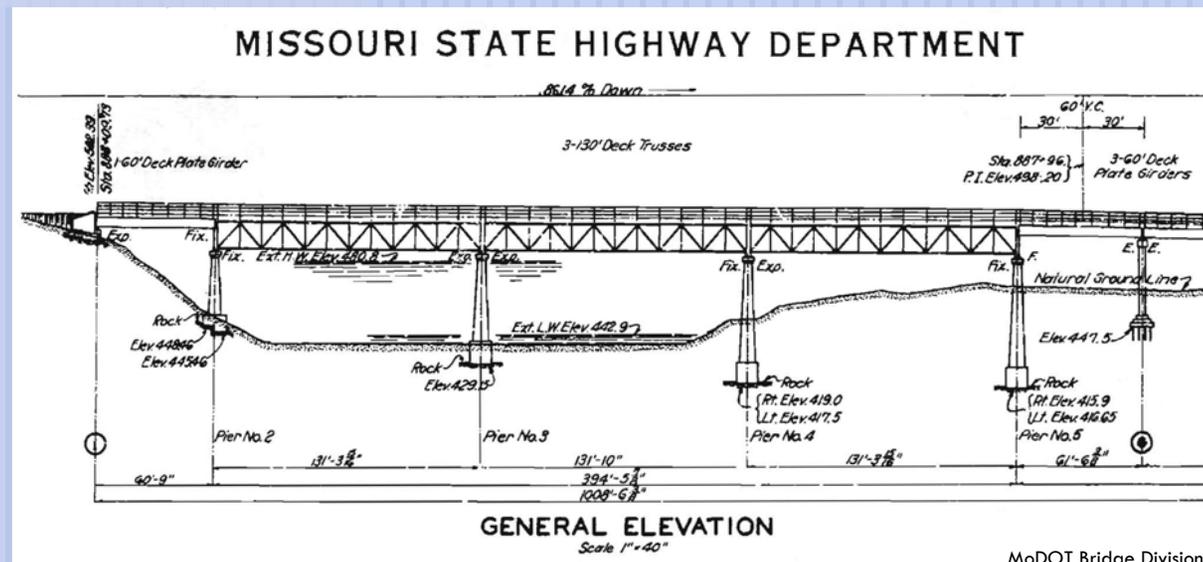
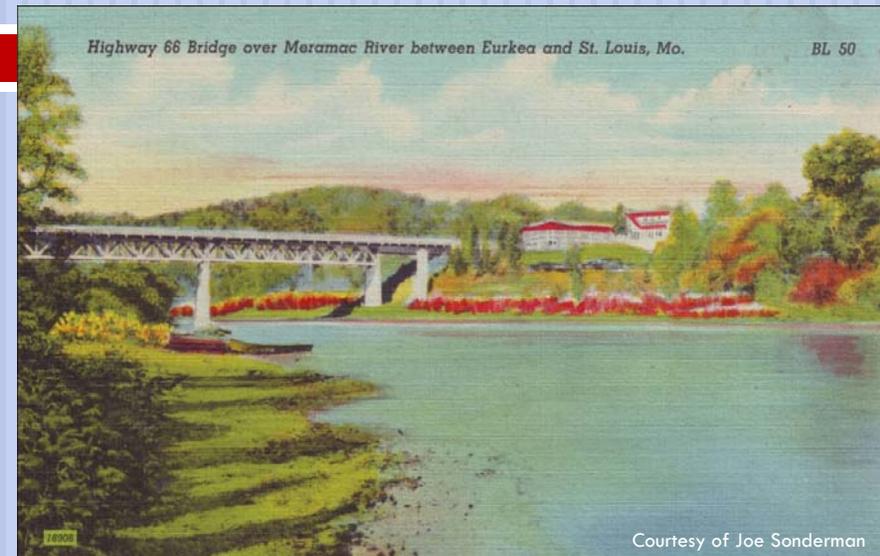
Votaw Bridge

Since 1900, the Votaw Bridge had been the Meramec River crossing between Eureka and St. Louis. In 1929, after weathering 30 years of traffic and disastrous flooding, it was determined to be incapable of supporting the demands of Route 66. It was removed in 1933.



The Route 66 Meramec River Bridge

Plans for a “new” bridge (J-421) were drawn in 1930. Construction began in 1931 and was completed in 1932. The Route 66 Meramec River Bridge is commonly referred to as the Times Beach Bridge because of its location at the entrance of the former Times Beach community.

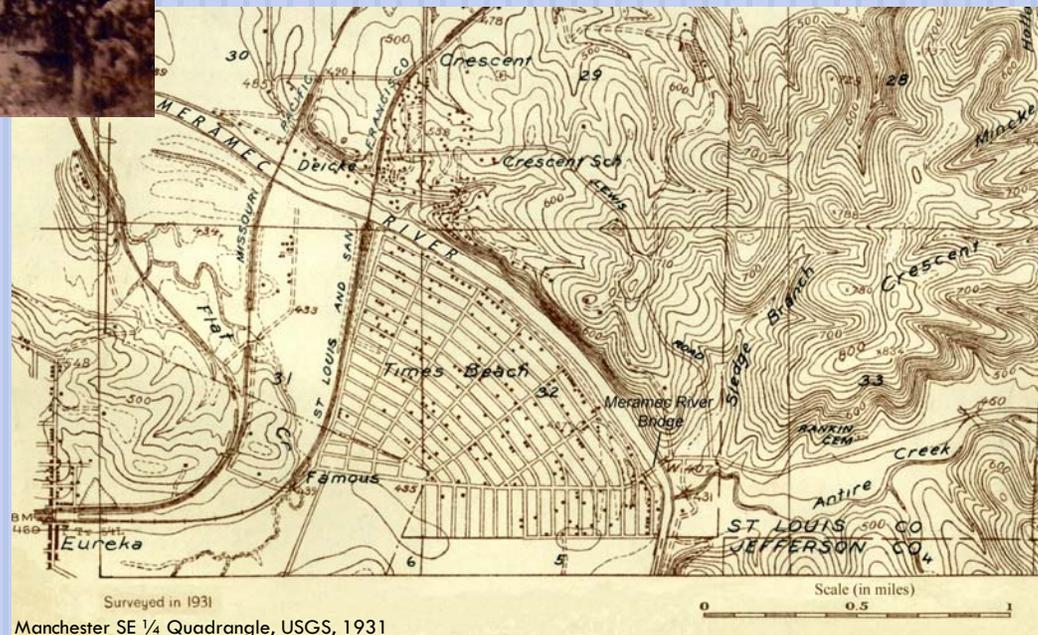


Times Beach : From Resort to Community



Route 66 State Park

The construction of the bridge and the routing of Route 66 through Times Beach coincided with the beginning years of the Great Depression, which marked the transition of Times Beach from a seasonal resort to a permanent community.



Route 66 Bridge and Roadhouse



In 1935, a roadhouse called the Bridge Head Inn opened at Times Beach on the east end of the bridge. The roadhouse changed ownership and names multiple times over its years of service to travelers on old Route 66. It became Steiny's Inn after World War II; it was the Bridgehead Inn again in 1972; and became Galley West in 1980. Today, it is the Visitor's Center for the Route 66 State Park.



The Demise of Times Beach

During the 1970s the streets of Times Beach were unpaved, which created a dust problem for the community. The town contracted Russell Bliss to spray the streets with oil to suppress the dust. At the same time that Bliss was hired to spray the streets of Times Beach, he had been hired to dispose of waste by a company that had produced the chemical known as “Agent Orange.” Bliss mixed the chemical waste with the oil that he sprayed on the streets of Times Beach, creating the largest civilian exposure to dioxin—an ingredient in Agent Orange—in U.S. history.



Image by Bettmann/CORBIS



Image by Joseph Sohm

Times Beach Buyout

Townpeople return to Times Beach to remember

TIMES BEACH, Mo. (UPI) — Former residents who were driven from their homes and their town by dioxin contamination tossed flowers into the Meramec River to mark the anniversary of a devastating flood that was the beginning of their troubles.

"People wanted to say goodbye to the old and hello to the new," Mayor Marilyn Leistner said after a solemn service on a Meramec River bridge Sunday.

"The community is not dead. Times Beach is no longer a viable city, but the spirit of Times Beach lives on within the people."

A color guard marched to the center of the bridge and was encircled by the residents, who sang "Battle Hymn of the Republic." At one end of the bridge was a concrete barrier, erected to prevent looters and the curious from entering the town.

"Cherish the memories of yesterday, savor the joys of today, nurture the promises of tomorrow," the Rev. Karl Reko read from a passage written by another former resident.

The crowd of about 200 former Times Beach residents threw red roses and yellow daisies from the bridge into the Meramec and watched them float away before leaving.

The Meramec was calm Sunday, quite different from the river that Dec. 5, 1982, wrecked hundreds of Times Beach homes and trailers.

A week after the flood, the federal government said the community 25 miles southwest of St. Louis was contaminated by dioxin and warned the population of 2,300 to stay away. The streets had been sprayed a decade earlier with oil tainted by cancer-causing dioxin.

In January, the government announced an unprecedented \$30 million buyout of the entire town.



UPI Photo

Former Times Beach resident Rose Elliot, center, distributes flowers to former fellow residents to toss into the Meramec River at a memorial service for dioxin-tainted Times Beach, Mo. About 200 townspeople commemorated the anniversary of the flood that preceded the government announcement of dioxin contamination.

Mrs. Leistner said she was disappointed only 200 people attended the flood anniversary service. The former townspeople plan to hold an annual July picnic in Eureka.

Loretta George, who drove 200 miles with her family from their new home in Ava, Mo., said she was unhappy she had not received a government check although she had accepted an offer for

her property in September.

Government officials say it may be the end of 1983 before the buyout is complete.

Biddeford Journal, 6 December 1983

On February 23, 1983 the EPA announced the town's buyout for \$32 million. The town of Times Beach was subsequently leveled, and from March 1996 to June 1997, dioxin contaminated soil and debris from the site were incinerated.



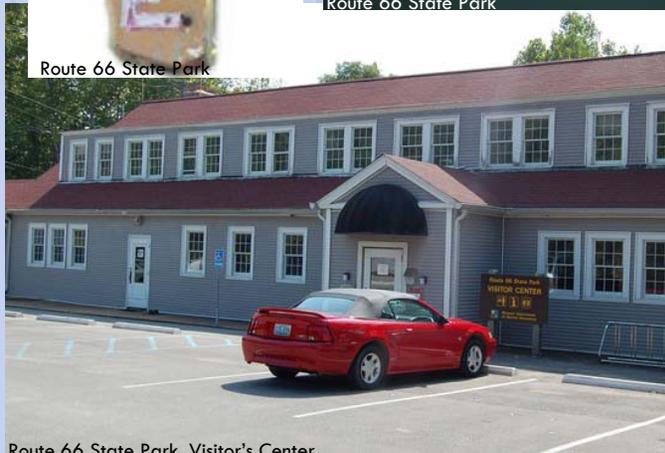
The Route 66 State Park



Route 66 State Park



Route 66 State Park



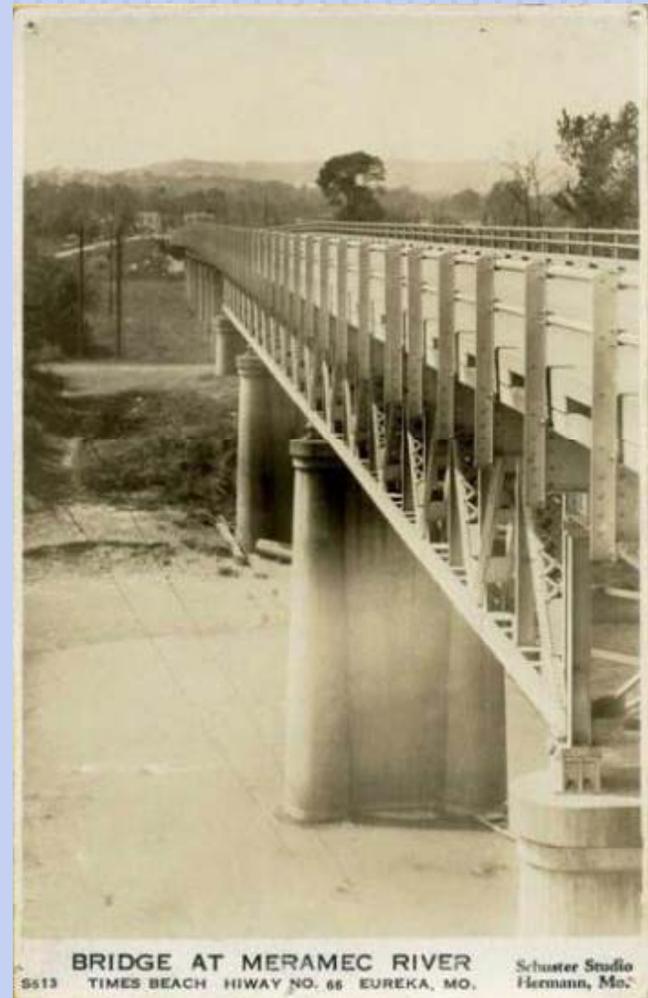
Route 66 State Park, Visitor's Center

In 1999, after the dioxin cleanup was complete, the Times Beach site was transferred to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for use as the Route 66 State Park. The old Bridge Head Inn became the Visitor's Center for the park. The Route 66 Meramec River Bridge remained MoDOT's property, but it served only park traffic until it was closed in the fall of 2009.

Route 66 Meramec River Bridge

Listing on the National Register of Historic Places

The Meramec River Bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) on September 16, 2009. The Meramec River Route 66 Bridge is significant both for its association with historic Route 66 and as one of only four remaining riveted Warren deck truss bridges in the state.



Courtesy of Joe Sonderman