

The Kosciusko County Rural Address System
(Finding Your Way Around the County)
KLA Project Proud, April 25, 1991

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 - B. Need for an updated county map

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Address System
(Finding Your Way Around the County)

Kosciusko Leadership Academy
Project Proud

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April 25, 1991

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Finally, we greatly appreciate the help and advice the Rural Numbering Project staff and the Area Plan Commission gave us during the construction of this paper. We came to realize their job is, simply, immense.

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As rural Kosciusko County residents, we felt personally interested and affected by our county's Rural Numbering Project. We knew the project had changed our rural route box numbers and "made" us incorporate a house number that somehow tied into a county road. We wanted to find out how the project started, how it affected other residents, and how we could help our fellow residents and county visitors understand the new numbering system.

The following background information for the County Rural Numbering Project was obtained from news releases and current information sheets the Project sends to rural residents. The source of information has been the Area Plan Commission.

As stated in these releases, the Rural Numbering Project started in October 1987, when the Kosciusko County Board of Commissioners adopted a baseline numbering system for houses and businesses in unincorporated areas of Kosciusko County. To implement the system, the county Area Plan Commission in May 1988, established the Rural Numbering Project. The first address change notices were sent to Warsaw area residents on April 18, 1989. The Project and the Warsaw Post Office worked in concert to inform Warsaw area residents their new addresses would be effective immediately. The Warsaw Post Office then allowed residents, businesses, and property owners twelve (12) months to change their mailing addresses from rural route box numbers and to affix the new address numbers on their homes, buildings, and rural delivery boxes.

This same methodology has been used as other county residents and businesses have been included in the Project. To date, Syracuse, Warsaw, and Etna Green area residents have received new addresses. Awaiting official input of new addresses by the South Bend Post Office are the residents of both Milford and Pierceton.

The Area Plan Commission has identified four benefits the County will derive from the baseline system. These are:

1. The baseline system is a logical extension of pre-existing county road numbers and names. Road signs will remain intact.
2. Post offices may add or change rural routes without forcing patrons to change their addresses repeatedly.
3. The new system will assist fire departments, emergency medical service units, and county police in locating houses and businesses during emergencies.

4. It is a necessary precondition for county implementation of enhanced 9-1-1 emergency dispatching.

While the Area Plan Commission has done an excellent job of explaining the baseline system, we felt it would be helpful to present a consolidated interpretation of the system and to give examples of how dwellings are located using the system. We also felt it important to discover how many residents and property owners will be affected by the Project.

To better understand the scope of the Project, we looked to the U.S. Postal Rural Delivery Service. After all, rural addresses have always been under the functional control of the Post Office. As one might suspect, the U.S. Postal Service manages a massive rural delivery system. It has been in existence since about the turn of the century when it started as Rural Free Delivery as an experiment on October 1, 1890. It officially became an established service in 1899 in the county of Carroll, Maryland. Today's operations, simply called Rural Delivery, include over 36,000 rural carriers, over 39,000 vehicles, and over 39,000 rural routes containing 16,600,000 delivery boxes. The average route covers 63.2 miles; the daily total of all rural route miles serviced is in excess of 2,400,000.

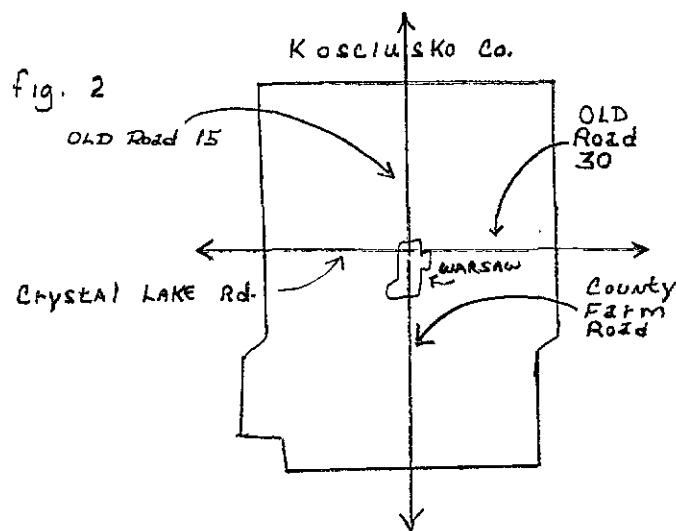
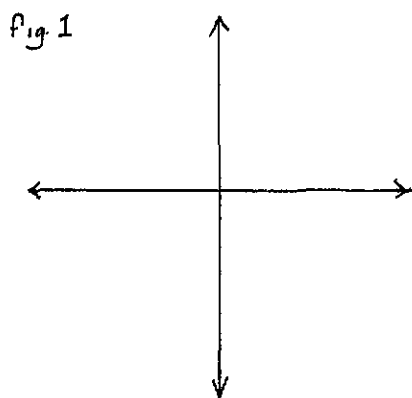
In our county, there are nineteen Post Offices handling rural residents and businesses. Due to the regional organization of the Postal Service, these Kosciusko dwellings are served by both Kosciusko and neighboring county offices. Therefore, the Project depends on the assistance and cooperation of out-of-county Post Offices. The Project will include about 18,000 rural boxes that are spread throughout the county. We have listed the number of boxes serviced by each county and neighboring Post Office; please refer to appendix "A". The larger concentrations are in the Warsaw, Syracuse, Leesburg, Pierceton, Claypool, Milford, and North Webster areas.

With this background information in mind, we will now present our interpretation of the rural addressing system.

THE INS AND OUTS OF RURAL NUMBERING

The purpose of this section is to lay out the rural numbering system in a way that both longtime residence and newcomers to the area can both understand and use the rural number system to locate a rural location based on its address.

The system is based, in simple form, on overlaying a "cross mark" (fig 1.) Over the county road system. You use these 2 lines ("baseline roads") as reference points to locate all rural locations (fig. 2).



The north-south baseline roads consists of Old State Road 15 north of Warsaw and County Farm Road south of Warsaw. The east-west baseline roads consists of Old Road 30 east of Warsaw and Crystal Lake Road west of Warsaw (see fig. 2).

Which of the baseline roads that is selected to determine a particular rural address is decided by whether the address is on a predominately north-south road or a predominately east-west road. Locations on east-west roads are designated by their distance from the north-south baseline roads (Old Road 15 and County Farm Road). Locations on north-south roads have their addresses based on their distance from the east-west baseline roads (Old Road 30 and Crystal Lake Road).

A rural address contains two pieces of information. The first is the distance and direction from the appropriate baseline road, and the second is the road name or number the address is actually on. Two examples might help illustrate this concept:

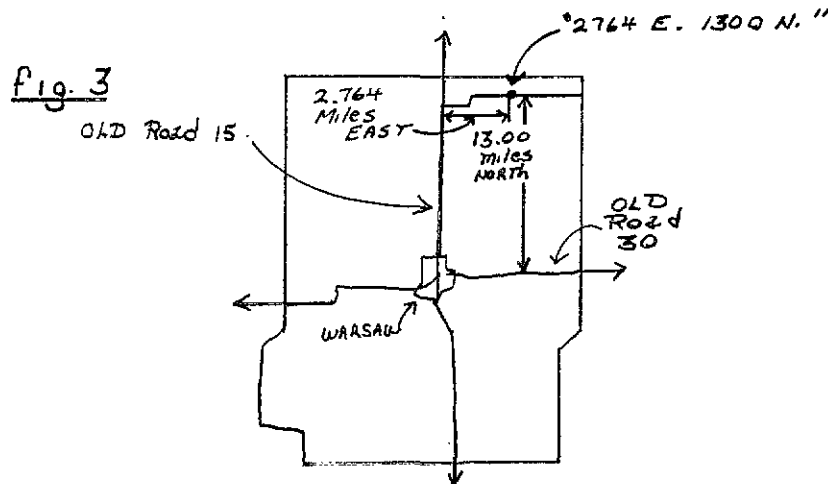
"2510 E. Pierceton Road"

The "2510 East" tells us that the location is 2.510 Miles east (the decimal point is dropped) of the appropriate north-south baseline road (in this case, County Farm Road). The

"Pierceton Road" portion of the address tells us which road in the county the location is actually on. Named roads (i.e. "Pierceton Road") have the disadvantage that "Pierceton Road" doesn't give us a clue as to where in the county "Pierceton Road" is located. That is not the case with our second example:

"2764 E. 1300 N."

Once again "2764 E" tells us that the location is 2.764 miles east of the appropriate baseline. We can tell which baseline road to use by looking at the second half of the address, "1300 N.". "1300 N." tells us that the road is approx. 13 miles North of the east-west baseline roads. Now, we know the location is 2.764 miles East of the north-south baseline road and that it is approx. 13 miles North of the east-west baseline road. We can conclude this address is somewhere in the upper right hand area of a county map (fig. 3).



One last "rule of thumb" helps us to know which side of the road the location is on. Even numbers appear on the north and east sides and odd numbers appear on the south and west sides. Our example of "2764 E. 1300 N." Has the even number "2764" therefore, we know the following:

1. It is 2.764 miles east of the n/s baseline road.
2. It is on a road named "1300 N." Which in turn tells us it is 13 miles north of the east west baseline road.
3. The exact location will be on the north side of the road.

**Emergency Medical Service Lanes
(EMS lanes)**

Emergency Medical Lanes (EMS Lanes) are used around several (but not all) of the lakes in the county. They were originally set up as their name implies---a way for emergency crews to quickly locate a house or cottage amongst the labyrinth of small lanes, alleys, and cul-de-sacs that surround a number of our lakes.

Currently, the postal service is in the process of attempting to incorporate the EMS Lane Number into its postal address system. Work at this point is incomplete with some incompatibilities still to be ironed out.

An EMS address works very similar to a rural address number, for example,

"150 EMS Lane B75"

The first part of the address ("150") is used to designate how far down a lane (measured in feet) a location is (the last digit is dropped). For example;

"150 EMS Lane..." Tells you it is 1,500 feet down the lane
"10 EMS lane.." Tells you it is 100 feet down the lane
"1 EMS lane..." Tells you it is 10 feet down the lane

The second part of the address ("...B75") tells us which lake (or group of lakes the address is near and the exact lane number. In the case of the example ("150 EMS Lane b75"), we would look for Lane 75 on Barbee Lake system. Other lake designations are;

R= Ridinger lake

C= Big and Little Chapman Lakes

B= this is the "umbrella" designation for the Chain 'O Lakes area. This is one EMS system covering an area that includes about 7 lakes that are connected. The lakes in this group are Big Barbee, Little Barbee, Kuhn Lake, Sechrist Lake, Sawmill Lake, Irish Lake and Banning Lake.

T= this is the "umbrella" designation for the Tippecanoe Lake system that includes Lake Tippecanoe, Little Tippecanoe (a.k.a. James Lake) and Oswego Lake.

As with the rural numbering system, even numbers are on the north or east side of the lane and odd numbers are on the south or west side of the lane.

Realizing this is a bit confusing, a few more examples (using an imaginary address) might help to show how the system works.

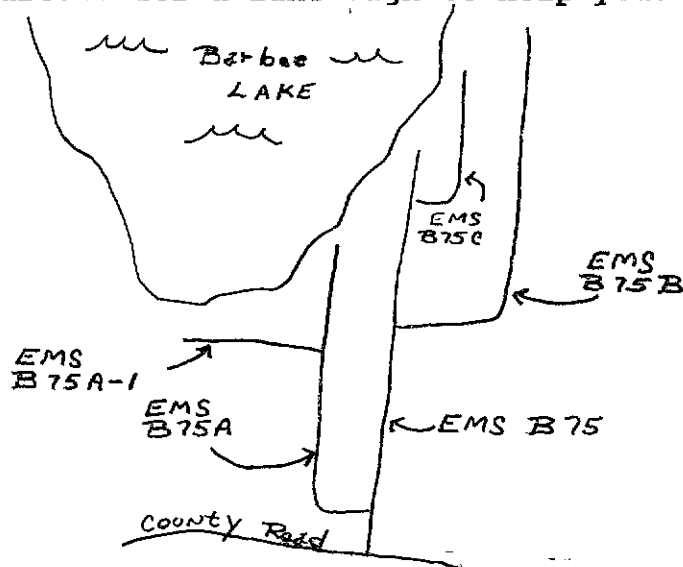
"150 EMS Lane B75 A"

The "A" after B75 is used to denote spurs of the main lane (in this case B75). Spurs are indicated by a letter ("A" in this case). In the above example this tells us it is the 1st spur. If it had been a "C" we would know it is the 3rd spur off B75.

You can summarize the information contained in the example as follows:

"150 EMS Lane B75 A"

This location is on the north or east side of the first spur off of EMS Lane B75. It is 1500 feet from the start of the spur. It is on the Barbee Lake system. The lake associations have done a good job of installing EMS Lane signs at intersections, so when in doubt look around for a lane sign to help you.



It is important to realize that each EMS Lane system was installed by separate groups of people. While most follow the same pattern, there are exceptions to all the "rules of thumb":

1. Lanes are started in a clockwise numbering pattern, beginning with an area that makes the most sense (usually north east corner, except Ridinger Lake it goes counter clockwise)
2. Lanes are only numbered if there is more than one house
3. New lanes that are added after the number system is in place are numbered with a dash then a number after the base number, i.e. B43-1 would indicate that this lane is in between lanes B43 and B44.

Probably one of the most important lessons to be learned from assembling this paper is the following:

If you are new to the area, or only spend a small amount of time here, it is very important to know your rural address and/or EMS address. This should be posted by your phone. This address tells emergency people exactly where you are. In cases like this, every moment can mean life or death. If you are not sure what your rural address or EMS address is you can contact the Kos. Co. Rural numbering, 100 W. Center st., Rom. 26, Warsaw, Phone# 372-2307. They will be happy to help you.

When we initially approached our topic, we felt we could write the definitive paper on the Rural Numbering Project. Instead, as we researched the background and the status of the implementation, we uncovered a fairly complex governmental process. The Project has far-reaching and long term ramifications. It involves several civic and governmental bodies and groups. It requires the public to become aware of the changes. Indeed, as the official and final authority over the system, the Rural Numbering Project has become a major effort in coordination.

A more realistic conclusion we now may draw is that more work needs to be done. Obviously, the Project will continue to implement the new addresses for the remainder of the affected county residents and dwellings. We also found the county will need a complete road map. Many of the newer roads and lanes are not included in any county-wide map. There are several good maps and guides available which we have listed in appendix "H". However, a truly complete and exhaustive map is simply not in existence.

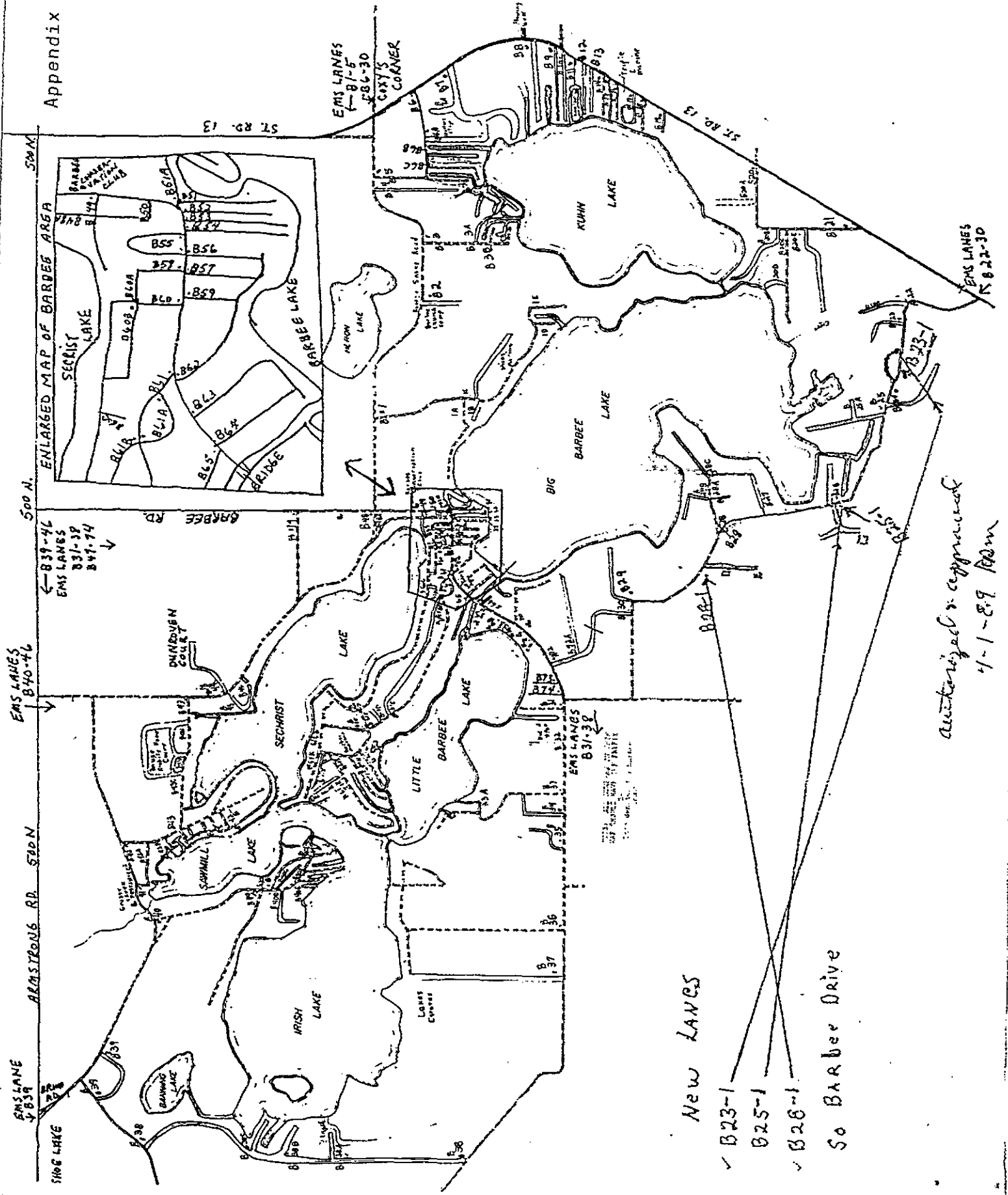
We feel we have added to the understanding of the Project and the baseline system. We now invite future KLA classes and other civic groups to pursue the creation of a comprehensive Kosciusko road map.

Appendix A
Kosciusko County Rural Boxes Served by U.S. Postal Service

Post Office	Tel. Number	No. of Boxes
Akron	893-7012	225
Atwood	858-2426	0 *
Bourbon	342-3175	32
Burket	491-3672	125
Claypool	566-2234	973
Cromwell	856-2512	292
Etna Green	858-9341	546
Leesburg	453-4800	1450
Mentone	353-7333	510
Milford	658-4887	888
North Webster	834-2707	885
Pierceton	594-2627	1086
Rochester	223-2610	5
Sidney	839-4975	0 *
Silver Lake	352-2811	701
South Whitley	723-4716	46
Syracuse	457-3424	3700
Warsaw	267-7321	6458
Winona Lake	267-6732	0 *
	Total	17,922

* = Town routes and/or
P.O. boxes only

Appendix B



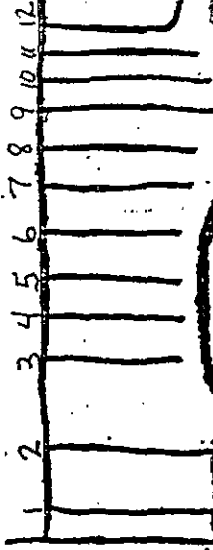
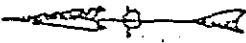
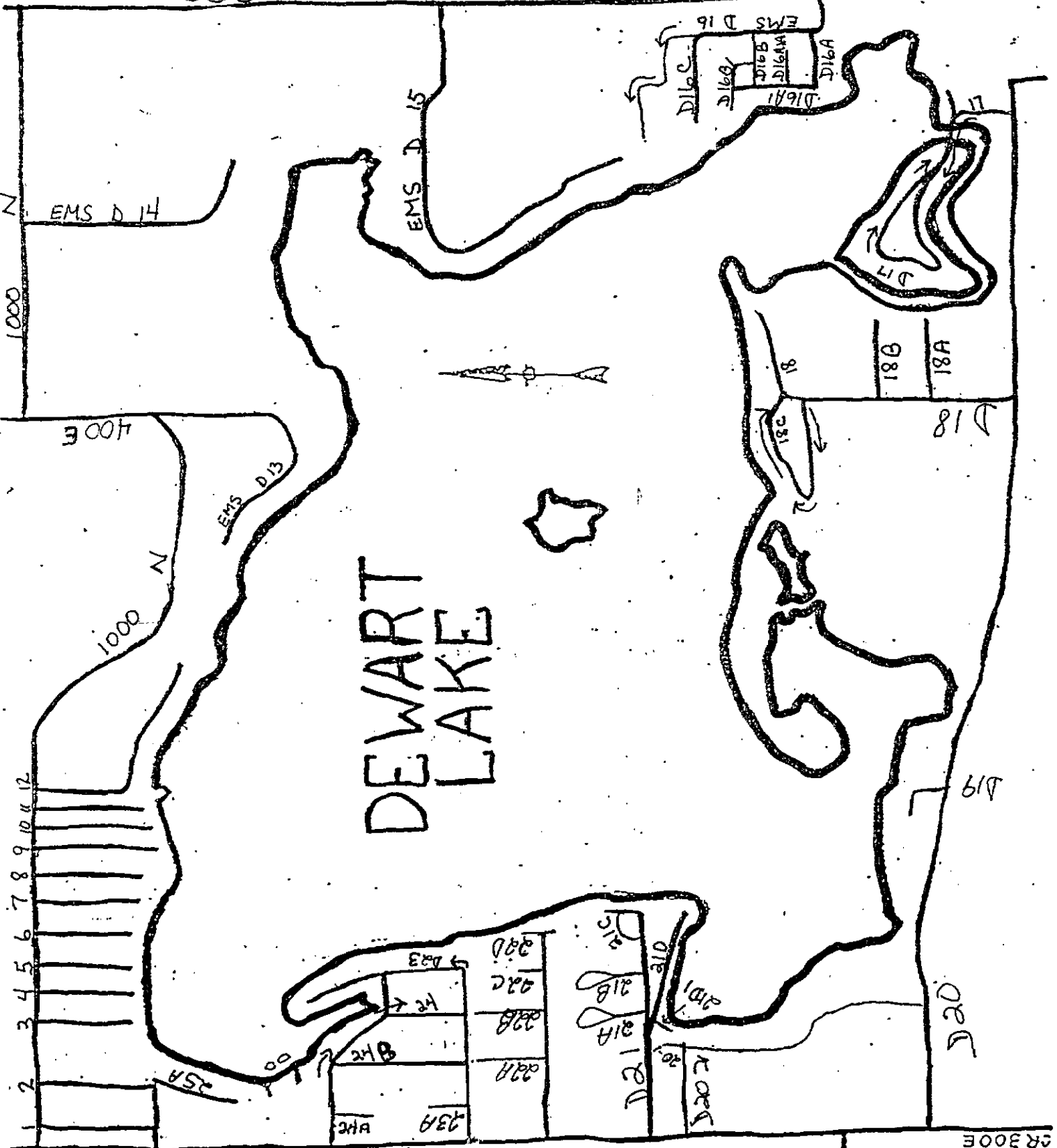
New LANES

- ✓ B23-1
- B25-1
- ✓ B26-1

So Barber Drive

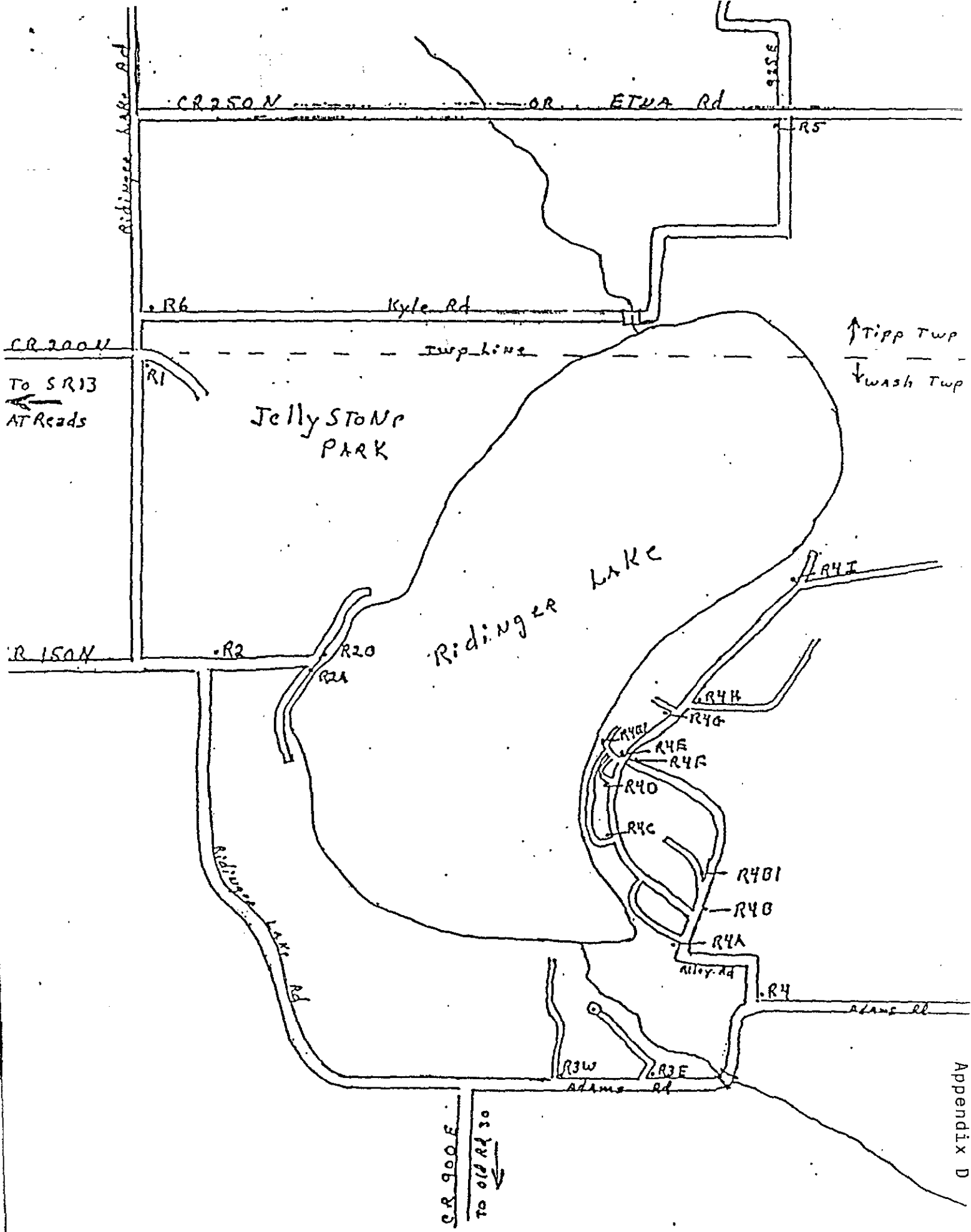
*authorized & approved
1-1-89 RDM*

500 E



CR 900 N

CR 900 E

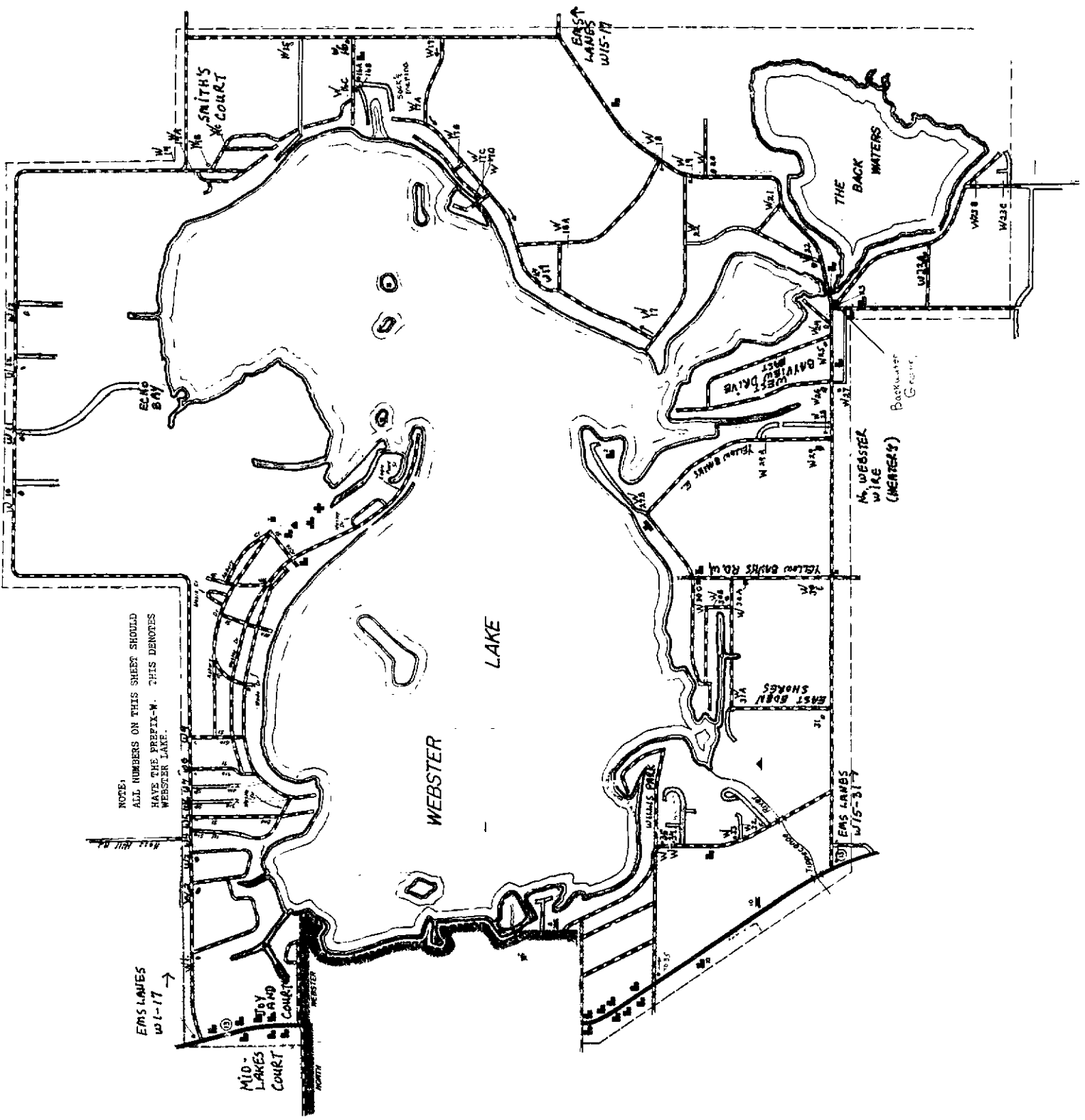


↑ Tipp Twp
↓ Wash Twp

To SR13
← AT Reads

CR 900 E
TO OLD R430

Appendix D



NOTE:
ALL NUMBERS ON THIS SHEET SHOULD
HAVE THE PREFIX-W. THIS DENOTES
WEBSTER LAKE.

EMS LAKES
W15-17 →

MID-
LAKES
COURT
W15-17

WEBSTER
LAKE

EAST
LAKES
W15-17

WILLIAMS
COURT
W15-317

EAST
BORN
W15-317

EAST
SHORES
W15-317

M. WEBSTER
W15-317
(WEBSTER'S)

GAYLOR
DRIVE
W15-317

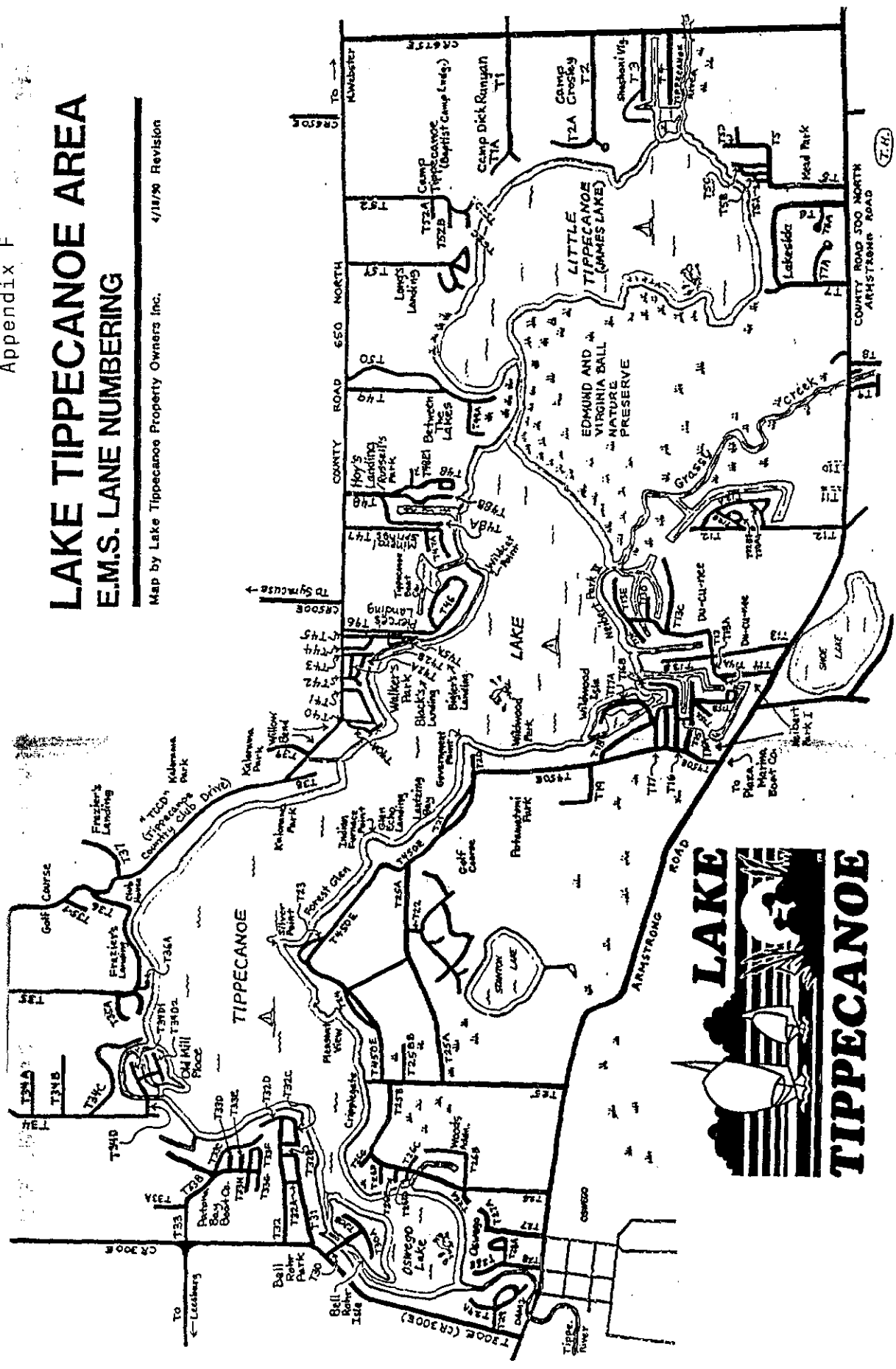
Backwater
Garage

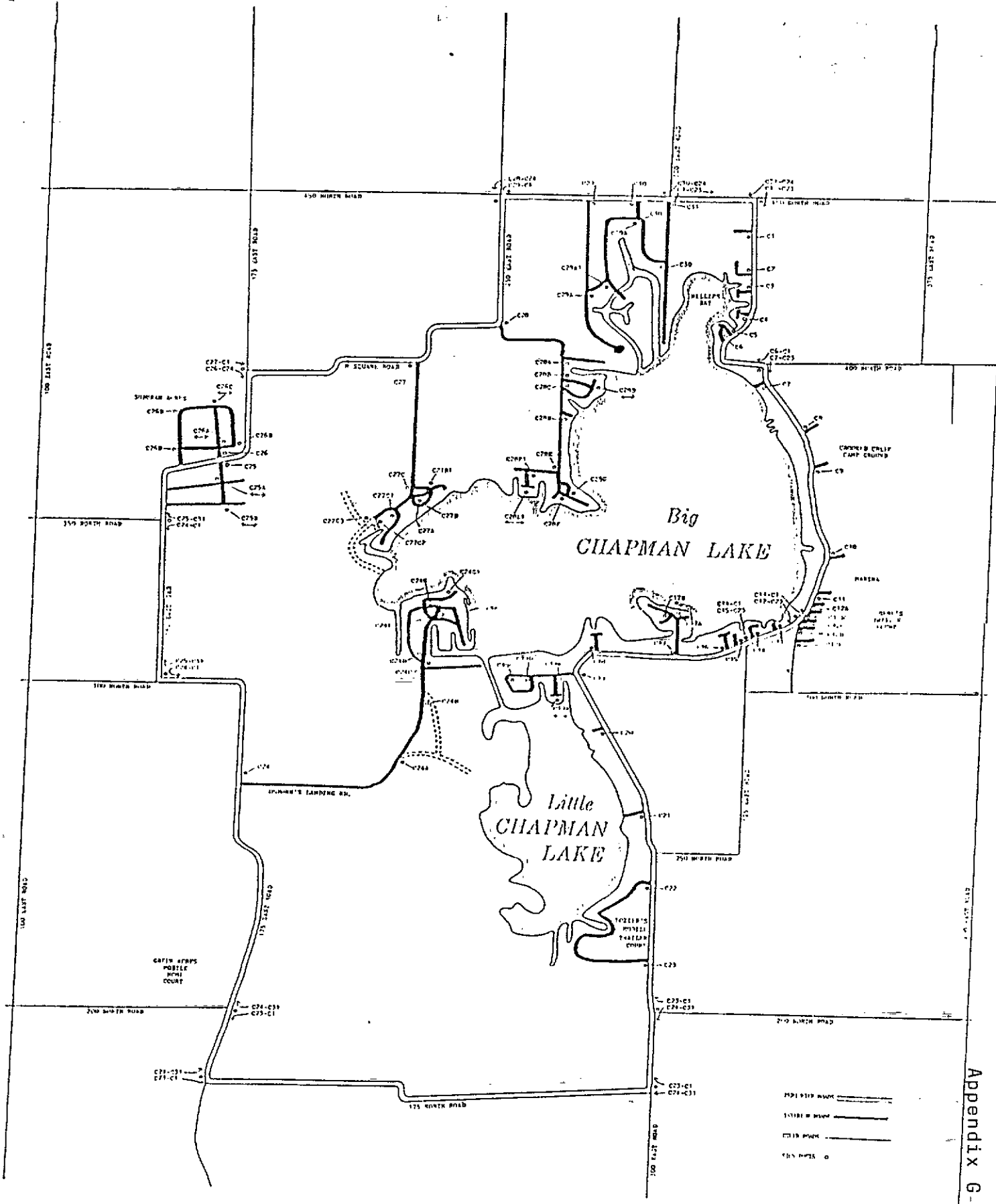
THE
BACK
WATERS

SMITH'S
COURT
W15-17

LAKE TIPPECANOE AREA E.M.S. LANE NUMBERING

Map by Lake Tippecanoe Property Owners Inc. 4/18/90 Revision





Appendix G-

Appendix H

County and Area Maps and Directories

Warsaw and Kosciusko County	1. The Greater Warsaw Area Chamber of Commerce 267-6311
	2. Universal Map Enterprize, available through Ramsey News and Read More
Area fishing lakes and county roads	Hoosier Hank's North East Indiana County Road and Lake Map, available at many gas stations and convenience stores
Kosciusko County Plat Maps	Available at many banks
County Road Directory	Area Plan Commission, \$.20 per page