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FIELD NOTES

A SERIES DEDICATED TO THE HUMAN EXPLORATION OF OUR PLANET

Detroit Geographical Expedition Field Note

THE CONTINENTS AND ISLANDS OF MANKIND

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Discussion Paper No. 3

"THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE CHILDREN OF OF DETROIT"

The Detroit Geographical Expedition and Institute

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Field Notes is a series of discussion papers, the official publication of the Detroit Geographical Expedition and Institute. It is published irregularly as space permits.

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47 would we be able to read in that landscape that
48 you couldn't?"
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Lyons Colvard

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Marie Taylor, Jacob Abraham, David G. S.,
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Field Notes is a series of discussion papers, the official publication of the Detroit Geographical Expedition and Institute. Field Notes is published occasionally as research is completed. Any persons desiring to join the Society for Human Exploration (the DGEI's parent body) and receive thereby Field Notes on an annual basis should channel such requests to:

Other Aspects of the Human Geography of Detroit
The Detroit
Editor, Field Notes
619 Cornell
East Lansing, Michigan 48823

Annual membership dues are \$5.00 post paid. Comments are welcome.

The Political Redistricting of Detroit
Jean Jones

Money Flows in the Detroit Area: A Progress Report
William Deville Jr.

Grand River-Galvan Blvd. Region
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Section I - Administrative Reports

Report to the Council of the American Association of Geographers

The ad hoc committee on
relations with the Detroit
Geographical Expedition and
Institute

The committee met in Detroit on November 27, 1970 during the National Council of Geographic Educators meetings. It has based its recommendations to the Council on the following summary, which is our understanding of the activities of the DGEI thus far.

COMMITTEE FINDINGS

In 1968, under the guidance of Bill Bunge, a group of ghetto residents began to explore and map the geography of the city. They combined geographic concepts and methods with personal hypotheses and definitions of problems. The result was a series of innovative studies of health hazards, income flows, traffic flows, death rates, and other variables of concern to the students. Faculty from the University of Michigan geography department participated; college credit was arranged.

The initial efforts led to a need for cartographic instruction so that the maps from the first studies could be refined for publication. Hence, a second credit course was organized, in cartography, through Michigan State University. Geographers from other institutions also donated instructional time at this stage.

Professional geographers who have contributed substantial time and effort to the DGEI, in addition to Bill Bunge, include John Nystuen, Ron Horvath, Gerald Karaska and Allen Philbrick. Others have been involved, also.

Since the summer of 1969, the academic ties have been with Michigan State. Course offerings and faculty have increased in both number and variety to cover a wide range of basic skills and subject matter. Some senior faculty have volunteered their time, and some of the instruction has been provided by paid graduate assistants. The Michigan State extension division has handled accreditation and related administration; registration at Detroit has been largely the responsibility of the DGEI; Wayne State has provided the classrooms. Thus, the educational enterprise appears to have become a kind of experimental community college, in which geography is only one component.

Meanwhile, DGEI members, with guidance from professional geographers, produced a study of the school redistricting problem in Detroit. The findings and recommendations of this study appear to have had intellectual and political impact, and it is an important geographic work for (1) its substance, (2) its method, and (3) its use as an instrument to train citizens to research their community problems and to use the research findings to stimulate and guide community action. The study was published as Number 2 in the Field Notes series of DGEI. It is anticipated that future issues will expand upon the topics covered in the early studies - health hazards, income flows and mortality, for example.

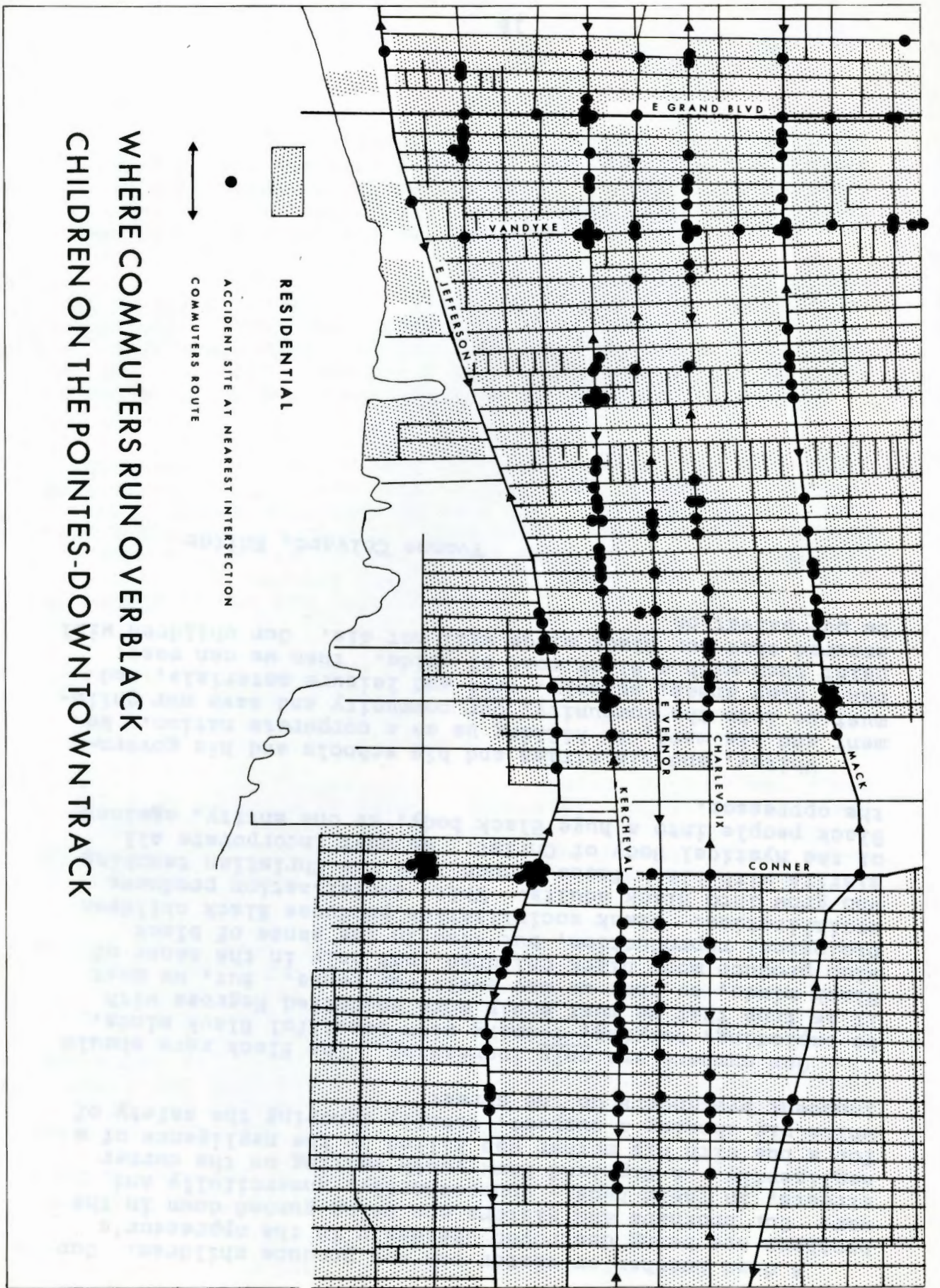
The committee feels that the research and field work of the DGEI is important for both geography and our society in two ways. (1) It is an instance in which geography students have been drawn from outside the formal school or college population and taught experimentally, with materials structured entirely empirically to meet immediate needs of the students and their community. (2) It is a use of the geographic method, with professional geographic assistance, by a citizen action group. In almost all previous cases, work of this kind has been done for public or private corporate agencies. The committee agreed that this may represent a direction in which much more effort will move in the future, and it is useful that this experience be documented.

It should be noted that the community college component has grown much bigger than geography, although it is an interesting spin-off from the initial DGEI work.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) A grant should be made from the AAG General Research Fund to the Detroit Geographical Expedition and Institute.
 - a) The grant should be the maximum possible under constraints imposed by both Council action at San Francisco and the balance actually in the GRF account.
 - b) This would be a one-time grant, consistent with the normal use of the fund.
- (2) The grant should be made without any specific restraints being placed upon its use, in accord with custom for grants of this type. However, the committee asks that it be informed of the use of the funds and hopes that it will be possible for the DGEI to publish more about the method and substance of its work along the following lines:
 - a) publication of its early, pioneering geographical studies and maps;

TO DOWNTOWN



TO SUBURBS (GROSSE POINTE)

WHERE COMMUTERS RUN OVER BLACK
CHILDREN ON THE POINTES-DOWNTOWN TRACK

A dead brother or sister can not produce children. Our brothers are being destroyed uselessly in the oppressor's war. Our brothers and sisters are being gunned down in the streets, in their beds - unnecessarily, unmercifully and negligently. A Highland Park youth waiting on the corner for a bus with his mother was killed by the negligence of a white pig chasing a suspect, totally ignoring the safety of innocent bystanders on the street.

Our numbers are only increasing. The Black race should be exploding, bulging, teeming with beautiful Black minds. It is true that we must equip more so-called Negroes with Black minds, so that we may swell our ranks. But, we must also produce more black children, not only in the sense of biological reproduction, but also in the sense of black socialization. Black socialization produces Black children who grow into Black adults. White socialization produces misfits with black faces. Much like the Christian teaching of the Mystical Body of Christ. We must incorporate all Black people into a huge Black body, as one entity, against the oppressor.

Whitey, and his cities and his schools and his government and his wars, is killing us as a corporate nation. We must go into the community, our community and save our children's play areas, schools, text and leisure materials, and paint them with a Black coat of pride. Then we can rest, assured that our Black minds will not die. Our children will be our salvation.

Yvonne Colvard, Editor