

Where
the past
is present

DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TEACHER RESOURCE PRIMARY SOURCE SET

DOCUMENTING DETROIT

PRIMARY SOURCE OVERVIEW

Documenting Detroit is a collection of photographs taken by College for Creative Studies students in the 1970s and 1980s.

Under the guidance of Detroit photographer and photography instructor Bill Rauhauser, students turned the urban landscape into works of art. The collection includes nearly 1,250 photographs of Detroit, from churches to construction sites, grocery stores to warehouses, hospitals to schools, and many others.

The collection offers snapshot of Detroit during the late 20th century, including the Michigan Central Train Station, the J. L. Hudson's Department Store on Woodward Avenue, construction of the Renaissance Center and Joe Louis Arena, and the abandonment of Poletown and the Warehouse District. Photographs also document everyday Detroit, such as favorite restaurants (Jacoby's, Astoria Bakery, Pegasus Taverna, Circa 1890 Saloon, and Sweetwater Tavern), families on Belle Isle, and vendors at Eastern Market.

This primary source set includes photographs of Detroiters as they worked and played. Students are invited to observe and reflect on the people and their surroundings to develop a better understanding of Detroit in the not-too-distant past.

You can search the entire Documenting Detroit collection and develop your own primary source sets by visiting:

<http://detroiths.pastperfect-online.com> and search for "Documenting Detroit."



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

By the 1970s, Detroit's population had been dropping steadily as the suburbs grew and freeways made it easier to live away from the city center.

Rebounding from the 1967 Riots, Detroiters created new community organizations to help address the city's problems. Focus: HOPE trained the city's poorest residents for good jobs. New Detroit pooled ideas and support from the community's business, civic, grassroots and religious leaders, including Coleman Young and Councilwoman Mary Beck.

A national recession in the early 1980s hit Detroit's auto industry hard. Meanwhile, Detroit became nationally known as the "Murder Capital" of the U.S., and for its "Devil's Night" arsons on the eve of Halloween. When the Tigers won the 1984 World Series, the celebration's destructive turn made national news.

However, during the same era, Detroit began hosting Grand Prix auto races, world-class music festivals, the 1980 Republican National Convention and Super Bowl XVI.

LESSON PLAN

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Analyze a primary source photograph
- Make assumptions about photograph based on prior knowledge and close observation

MATERIALS

- *Teacher's Guide to Analyzing Photographs*
- *Primary Source Analysis Tool*
- Primary Sources

PREPARATION

Make one copy for each student:

- One photo from collection
- Collections record for selected image
- *Primary Source Analysis Tool*

Print one copy of each of the other primary sources and their bibliographic records.

Recreate a blank *Primary Source Analysis Tool* on the board.

PROCEDURE

1. Distribute the copy of the selected photograph to each student.
2. Using the *Teacher's Guide to Analyzing Photographs*, lead students through the process as a group. Fill in the *Primary Source Analysis Tool* on the board with their answers.
3. For the "Observe" column: ask students to only comment on the things they see in the photo.
4. For the "Reflect" column: ask the students to comment on what is happening in the photo.
5. For the "Question" column: ask the students what information the photo itself does NOT provide (i.e. names, location, etc.) Make a list of questions the students have about the photo.
6. Distribute the bibliographical information sheet to each student. Review as a class and discuss whether or not the information answers their questions. What questions remain?
7. Lead a discussion about what other sources

could help them answer their remaining questions (i.e. other photographs, textbooks, letters, diaries, newspapers, the photographer, etc.)

8. Pass out a copy of the *Primary Source Analysis Tool* to each student. Place the students in groups of two to three and give each group one of the other primary source photographs.
9. Have each group work together to observe, reflect and create questions about their photograph. Each student should complete his or her own worksheet. Help the students by providing leading questions as needed (i.e. What do you notice first? What are the people wearing? What's happening?)
10. Have each group provide a brief report to the class on their observations, reflections and questions.
11. Lead a class discussion about the primary sources. Ask students what all the photos had in common, and how they differed. Encourage them to formulate hypothesis about the unifying theme presented (in this case, people in Detroit in the 1970s.)

PRIMARY SOURCE LISTING



Photographer Unknown. "Eastern Market." 1972.
From the Detroit Historical Collection.
Item Number: 2008.033.112

<http://detroiths.pastperfect-online.com/33029cgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=04EDEA4B-8129-4C00-9E87-311274515410;type=102>



Terry Yank. "Belle Isle." 1973.
From the Detroit Historical Collection.
Item Number: 2008.033.071

<http://detroiths.pastperfect-online.com/33029cgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=E01BD6EA-87B9-4B3B-B9ED-327475438701;type=102>



Darryl Davis. "Zena." 1976.
From the Detroit Historical Collection.
Item Number: 2008.033.834

<http://detroiths.pastperfect-online.com/33029cgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=B00800C8-552A-417E-BF71-386762802525;type=102>



Robert W. Cleveland. "Belle Isle." 1973.
From the Detroit Historical Collection.
Item Number: 2010.033.029

<http://detroiths.pastperfect-online.com/33029cgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=D6ED5D25-21A7-4D13-BFCB-792691034408;type=102>



Ken Music. "Mr. Green's Class." 1973.
From the Detroit Historical Collection.
Item Number: 2008.033.791

<http://detroiths.pastperfect-online.com/33029cgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=731F49B8-06BA-44FA-8381-973278372543;type=102>

PRIMARY SOURCE LISTING



Carla Anderson. "Belle Isle Casino - Senior Citizens Center." 1973.
From the Detroit Historical Collection.
Item Number: 2008.033.035

<http://detroiths.pastperfect-online.com/33029cgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=2F25C8D4-D6EB-4CD4-A96A-456255239650;type=102>



David Griffith. "Eastern Market." 1972.
From the Detroit Historical Collection.
Item Number: 2008.033.132

<http://detroiths.pastperfect-online.com/33029cgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=E8A9BC39-4E96-406A-8F4F-557334232154;type=102>



William Sadovsky. "Family on Belle Isle." 1973.
From the Detroit Historical Collection.
Item Number: 2008.033.070

<http://detroiths.pastperfect-online.com/33029cgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=EB3E0131-EB75-422F-99BD-276592016875;type=102>



Photographer Unknown. "[Untitled]." 1973.
From the Detroit Historical Collection.
Item Number: 2008.033.462

<http://detroiths.pastperfect-online.com/33029cgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=F298ED75-2919-49D0-A956-412623111820;type=102>



David P. Gilley. "Two Girls." c. 1975.
From the Detroit Historical Collection.
Item Number: 2008.033.435

<http://detroiths.pastperfect-online.com/33029cgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=3EC47921-0E1F-4A49-8E60-562976886033;type=102>

PRIMARY SOURCE LISTING



David Griffith. "Eastern Market." 1972.
From the Detroit Historical Collection.
Item Number: 2008.033.123

<http://detroiths.pastperfect-online.com/33029cgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=EF2C2630-9A28-404C-AB86-642247862840;type=102>



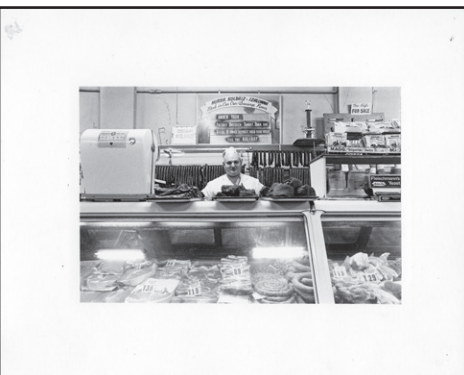
Cecelia McFadden. "International Restaurant. 561 Monroe, Greektown, Detroit." c. 1972.
From the Detroit Historical Collection.
Item Number: 2008.033.728

<http://detroiths.pastperfect-online.com/33029cgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=31A1DD48-0D02-41C2-8FF5-540879131554;type=102>



Carla Anderson. "Belle Isle - Teenage Couple in Front of Scott Fountain." 1973.
From the Detroit Historical Collection.
Item Number: 2008.033.040

<http://detroiths.pastperfect-online.com/33029cgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=CA9C8805-7666-4EFE-BE19-104701530500;type=102>



Terry Yank. "Delray Market." 1973.
From the Detroit Historical Collection.
Item Number: 2008.033.806

<http://detroiths.pastperfect-online.com/33029cgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=135D7CAA-C580-4FF4-A6B7-055433437630;type=102>



Vicki L. Conover. "[Untitled]." 1974.
From the Detroit Historical Collection.
Item Number: 2008.033.745

<http://detroiths.pastperfect-online.com/33029cgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=6602713F-A7C9-4CDE-8603-444211933440;type=102>

TEACHER'S GUIDE ANALYZING PHOTOGRAPHS & PRINTS



Guide students with the sample questions as they respond to the primary source. Encourage them to go back and forth between the columns; there is no correct order.

OBSERVE

Have students identify and note details.

Sample Questions:

- Describe what you see. · What do you notice first?
- What people and objects are shown? · How are they arranged? · What is the physical setting?
- What, if any, words do you see? · What other details can you see?

REFLECT

Encourage students to generate and test hypotheses about the image.

- Why do you think this image was made? · What's happening in the image? · When do you think it was made? · Who do you think was the audience for this image? · What tools were used to create this?
- What can you learn from examining this image? · What's missing from this image? · If someone made this today, what would be different? · What would be the same?

QUESTION

Have students ask questions to lead to more observations and reflections.

- What do you wonder about...
who? · what? · when? · where? · why? · how?

FURTHER INVESTIGATION

Help students to identify questions appropriate for further investigation, and to develop a research strategy for finding answers.

Sample Question: What more do you want to know, and how can you find out?

A few follow-up activity ideas:

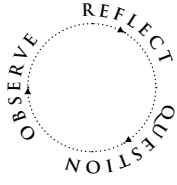
Beginning
Write a caption for the image.

Intermediate

Select an image. Predict what will happen one minute after the scene shown in the image. One hour after? Explain the reasoning behind your predictions.

Advanced
Have students expand or alter textbook or other printed explanations of history based on images they study.

For more tips on using primary sources, go to
<http://www.loc.gov/teachers>



PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS TOOL

OBSERVE	REFLECT	QUESTION
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FURTHER INVESTIGATION





Catalog Number 2008.033.745

Object Name Print, Photographic

Title Untitled

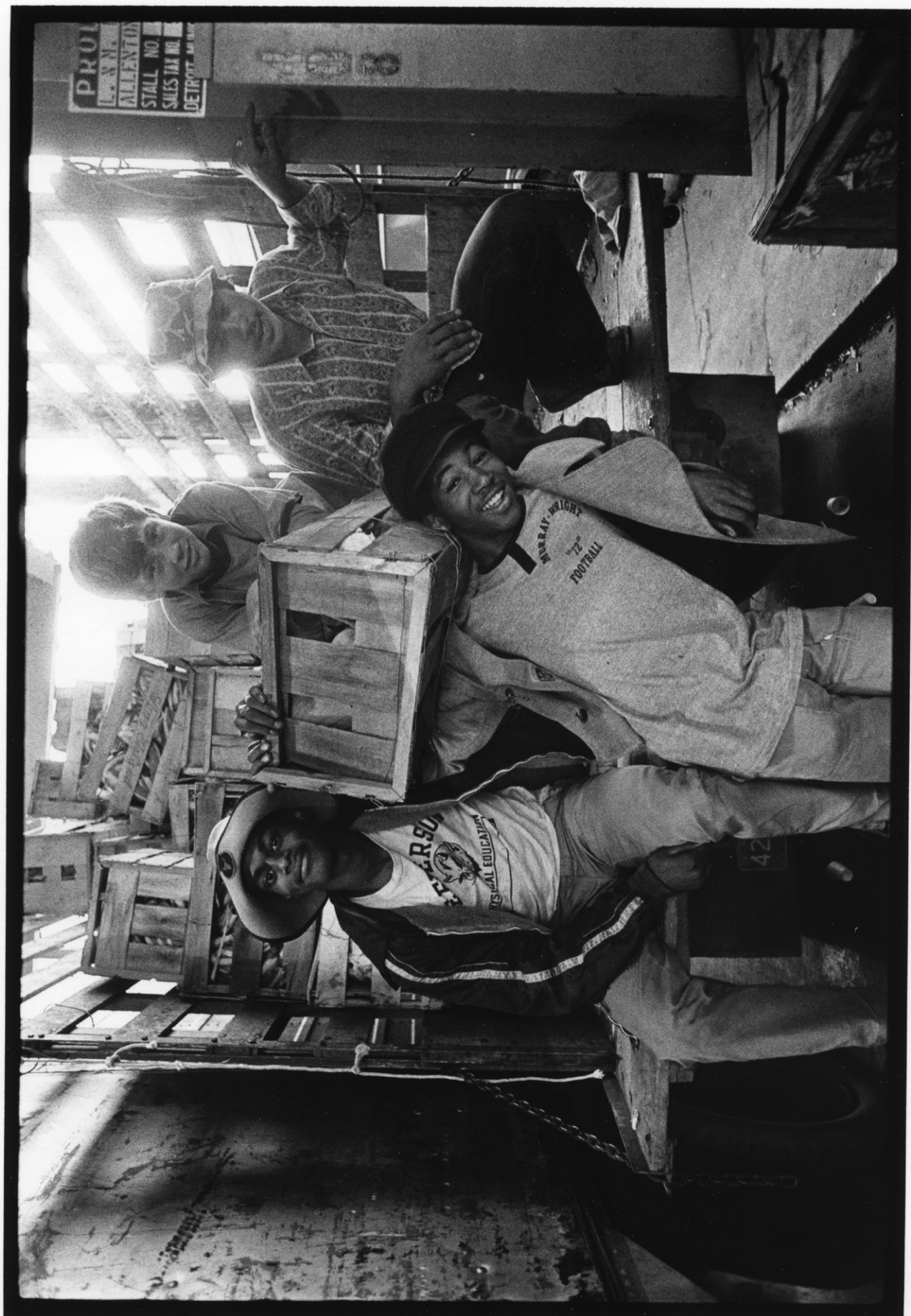
Description Black and white photographic print mounted on board depicting two young men wearing white aprons standing outside Kamel's Restaurant on the southeast side of Dix Avenue in Dearborn. A sign in front reads "Kamel's Restaurant, Pepsi, featuring shish-kebab. Dated September 1974.

Date 1974

Photographer Conover, Vicki L.

Collection Documenting Detroit

Search Terms Dearborn
Restaurants





Catalog Number 2008.033.123

Object Name Print, Photographic

Title Eastern Market

Description Black and white photographic print depicting four young men, two African American, at the back of a truck loaded with produce in stall 408 of Shed 4 at Eastern Market. One carries a crate on his shoulder. Shirts read "Jefferson Physical Education" and "Murray Wright Football '72". Dated October, 1972.

Date 1972

Photographer Griffith, David

Collection Documenting Detroit

Search Terms Eastern Market





Catalog Number 2008.033.728

Object Name Print, Photographic

Title International Restaurant, 561 Monroe, Greektown, Detroit

Description Black and white photographic print depicting the interior of the International Restaurant on Monroe Street. Customers sit at a counter while a man wearing a white apron stands behind the counter. A doorway and small window into the kitchen are visible in the background. A Wurlitzer is partially visible next to the door in the background. A stack of record albums are visible on the counter in the foreground. A sign reading "Ladies" hangs on the wall by a door in the background. Plaques hang on the back wall.

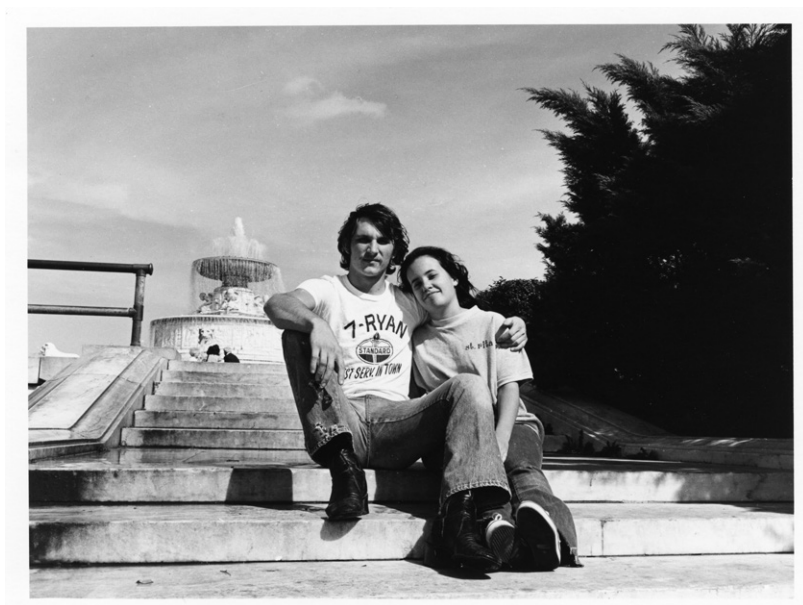
Date c. 1972

Photographer McFadden, Cecilia

Collection Documenting Detroit

Search Terms Restaurants
Greektown
Interiors





Catalog Number	2008.033.040
Object Name	Print, Photographic
Title	Belle Isle - Teenage Couple in front of Scott Fountain
Description	Black and white photographic print on board depicting a young couple seated on steps near the James Scott Memorial Fountain on Belle Isle. Their t-shirts read, "7-Ryan Standard Oil, Best Service in Town" and "St. Rita". Dated October 1973.
Date	1973
Photographer	Anderson, Carla
Collection	Documenting Detroit
Search Terms	Belle Isle James Scott Memorial Fountain Fountains





Catalog Number 2008.033.806

Object Name Print, Photographic

Title Delray Market

Description Black and white photographic depicting a man wearing a paper hat standing behind a meat counter at the Delray Market. In the background, a sign reading "Hurka, Kolbasz, Szalonna: Made in Our Sausage Room". Another sign below reads "Order Your freshly Dressed Turkey, Duck, and Geese. A Small Deposit Hold Your Order Till the Holiday" and a small sign standing to the left reads "Csabai Kolbasz". A trophy sits to the right and a cork board with knives is to the right with a sign reading "These Knives for Sale". Sausages can be seen hanging over rods. A glass display case can be seen in the front with various cuts of meat and sausage with small signs reading "Special Today: .98 cents lb, \$1.39 lb, \$1.19 lb, .89 cents lb, \$1.19 lb, and \$1.29 lb". On the counter above is a scale, three platters of various meats, and a display shelf with packets of mix and a sign reading "Maggi, Imported Swiss Soups". Directly below is a sign reading "Fleischmann's Active Dry Yeast". Dated December, 1973.

Date 1973

Photographer Yank, Terry

Collection Documenting Detroit

Search Terms Butchers
Interiors
Delray





Catalog Number 2008.033.112

Object Name Print, Photographic

Title Eastern Market

Description Black and white photographic print depicting a vendor standing beside a produce stand with an in Eastern Market. Chevrolet Step Van, cars and a brick warehouse visible in the background. Signs read "Rogers Idaho Potatoes, 5/10", "High Hill Pears", "Sigma", "Fresh Daily", "Spinach", "Selected Quality Tomatoes", "Jasmine Select", "Distributors, Company", "Tobacco, Drug" and "2714".

Date 1972

Collection Documenting Detroit

Search Terms Eastern Market
Produce
Vendors





Catalog Number 2008.033.071

Object Name Print, Photographic

Title "Belle Isle"

Description Black and white photographic print depicting a seated African American man with a dog sitting at his feet near a lake on Belle Isle. The man is holding the dog's chain with one hand and fishing rods with the other. A metal bucket with pieces of wood is visible. Dated November 1973.

Date 1973

Photographer Yank, Terry

Collection Documenting Detroit

Search Terms Belle Isle
Fishing



Daryl Davis

Gene



Catalog Number 2008.033.834

Object Name Print, Photographic

Title Zena

Description Black and white photographic print mounted on board depicting an African American woman standing inside of a record store. Behind her, a wall lined with records can be seen. Some of the artists that can be seen are Miles Davis, Les McCam, George Freeman, David Newman, Grover Washington Jr., Lonnie Liston Smith and the Cosmic Echoes, Gil Scott-Heron, Houston Person, Nat King Cole, Masekela, Bobbi Humphrey, Natalie Cole, Margie, The Crusaders, Donnie Warwick, and Bobby Hutcherson. Hats sit on a table in front of the woman.

Date 1976

Photographer Davis, Darryl

Collection Documenting Detroit

Search Terms Record albums
Record Stores
Interiors
African Americans





Catalog Number 2008.033.029

Object Name Print, Photographic

Title "Belle Isle"

Description Black and white photographic print mounted on board depicting a Good Humor Ice Cream trailer on Belle Isle, with a worker wearing a money changer standing in front. Labels on the trailer read, "Chocolate Fudge Cake 30¢", "Caution Children", and "Fruit Stix, Raspberry 15¢"

Date 1973

Photographer Robert W. Cleveland

Collection Documenting Detroit

Search Terms Belle Isle
Ice Cream





Catalog Number 2008.033.791

Object Name Print, Photographic

Title Mr. Green's Class

Description Black and white photographic print mounted on board depicting a classroom of African American children inside Davison Elementary School. In the left of the background, windows can be seen, two of which are open. Several individual desks can be seen as well as a large table with chairs. A chalkboard is at the front of the room with mathematics problems written in chalk. A clock is on the wall above the chalkboard. The teacher sits at a desk with stacked books and papers near the front door of the room.

Date 1973

Photographer Music, Ken

Collection Documenting Detroit

Search Terms Davison Elementary School
Schools
Interiors





Catalog Number 2008.033.035

Object Name Print, Photographic

Title "Belle Isle Casino - Senior Citizen Center"

Description Black and white photographic print on board depicting four senior citizens seated in chairs inside the Belle Isle Casino. A sconce with four candles hangs on the wall just above them. Dated November 1973.

Date 1973

Photographer Anderson, Carla

Collection Documenting Detroit

Search Terms Belle Isle
Belle Isle Casino
Senior Citizens

Special BABY *Special* GOAT
FOR BAR-B-QUE

We'll give you
offer you can't refuse





Catalog Number 2008.033.132

Object Name Print, Photographic

Title Eastern Market

Description Black and white photographic print depicting a young man with a white apron standing in front of an open door to a cold storage room holding a leg of meat. Pieces of an animal carcass lay on a cement slab by his side. More cuts of meat visible through the open door behind him. A telephone hangs on the wall next to him. Signs read "Goat", "Special, Baby Goat for Bar-B-Que", and "We'll give you an offer you can't refuse." Dated October 1972.

Date 1972

Photographer Griffith, David

Collection Documenting Detroit

Search Terms Eastern Market
Butcher Shop
Goats





Catalog Number 2008.033.070

Object Name Print, Photographic

Title Family on Belle Isle

Description Black and white photographic print mounted on board depicting an African American family of five at a picnic table on Belle Isle. Parked cars and the Detroit River are visible in the background.

Date 1973

Photographer Sadovsky, William

Collection Documenting Detroit

Search Terms Belle Isle





Catalog Number 2008.033.462

Object Name Print, Photographic

Title untitled

Description Black and white photographic print depicting two women wearing "Miss Autorama '73" sashes at the Detroit Autorama in Cobo Hall. A show car with custom paint and open hood and trunk sits behind them.

Date 1973

Collection Documenting Detroit

Search Terms Autorama
Cobo Hall



Two Girls

David P. Gilley



Catalog Number 2008.033.435

Object Name Print, Photographic

Title Two Girls

Description Black and white photographic print mounted on board depicting two young African American girls standing in a parking lot with the Ambassador Bridge in the background, presumably at Riverside Park. One girl holds a can of Mountain Dew while the other girl has a bag of cotton candy. Cars can be seen in the background, including a Pontiac, and a tree's leaves and branches are hanging into the photograph in the top right corner.

Date c. 1975

Photographer Gilley, David P.

Collection Documenting Detroit

Search Terms Ambassador Bridge
African Americans
Riverside Park