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sizes. Native American jewelry, pottery, books, beads and crafts are also available, plus there's an ironing board museum and collection of "head mounts."

Little River Railroad — two antique steam engines and half a dozen historic cars owned by Travis Bloom and his family — offers more old-time fun. The trains run between Coldwater and Quincy, May through October and in December; round trips run about an hour and 45 minutes.

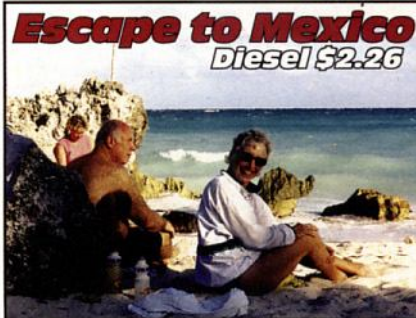
U.S. Highway 12 continues west to Bronson, where the city office is made entirely of white plastic. The unusual structure was built in just 14 hours. Sturgis was next, then White Pigeon, a former boomtown where the St. Joseph County Historical Society now occupies the oldest remaining U.S. Land Office in the state.

At Mottville, a bridge built in 1990 carries traffic over the St. Joseph River, but the unusual 270-foot three-span "camelback" bridge has been left for pedestrians. A placard states that the federal government built the first bridge here in 1833-1834, eight years after surveying and converting the old Sauk Trail to the Chicago Road.

Ahead is Edwardsburg — known for Lunkers, a sporting goods store/restaurant — followed by the town of Niles, which is an antiques Mecca. Continue to Galien, then cosmopolitan Three Oaks where a humorous sign claims: "Your body will not reject our liver." The ad was for "Liverbest, Formerly Liverwurst" at Driers Meat Market. It could be a curiosity shop, with its carousel cow, stovepipe hats and old Michigan vanity license plates arranged on a wall into sentences, such as "THANKU" "FOLKS" "PLEEZE" "CUMBACK" "SOON."

Carolyn Drier, behind the counter, said that in 1913 her grandfather, Edward Drier, bought the shop, which had opened in 1875. The shop sells sausage made here, as well as turkeys, hams and cheeses. Autographed photos of Carl Sandburg, cartoonist Bill Maulden and others, early customers and friends, crowd together on the walls of this National Historic Site.

On to New Buffalo, a world of boats, boat slips and fine homes strung along the shore of Lake Michigan. As travelers have for millennia, we could have turned south and kept going west. But New Buffalo is the last stop on this designated heritage route, making it, for us, the end of the line. ♦



FACT: Diesel fuel is currently \$2.26 a gallon in Mexico.

FACT: Tracks' new Copper Canyon tours have proven customer satisfaction, and our Yucatan tours still have openings!

FACT: 96% of Tracks tour evaluations state the customers got their money's worth or more!

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