

RMCA MapCon 2022 Report

by Mark Greaves (RMCA #39)

After many years of holding the annual RMCA MapCon in eastern locations, most recently at Hershey, Pennsylvania for the past couple of shows, we moved a bit farther west this year, to Kansas City, Missouri. Once again it was a roaring success, with many wonderful maps bought, sold and traded, new friendships made and old ones renewed, with a great time had by all.

The show took place on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 23-24, at the Hilton Kansas City Airport Hotel, with room-to-room trading on Thursday evening. President Kirk Perucca was able to secure us a great room rate at the hotel, and we will be returning there again next year.



(Photo courtesy of Chris Turner)

Above is a view of the conference room we had for the show, with tables and cloth coverings provided by the hotel. There was ample room for everyone, including approximately eight tables for the “Bargain Maps” donated to the RMCA over the past year and more.

The show opened at 9am Friday, continuing until 5pm. Soon after, we all met at Smokehouse Barbecue for dinner. The food was excellent, and afterwards there was a short member meeting followed by a presentation by Pat Carroll of Gallup Map & Art Co. Pat’s family pur-



Pat Carroll with a 1920s Gallup map



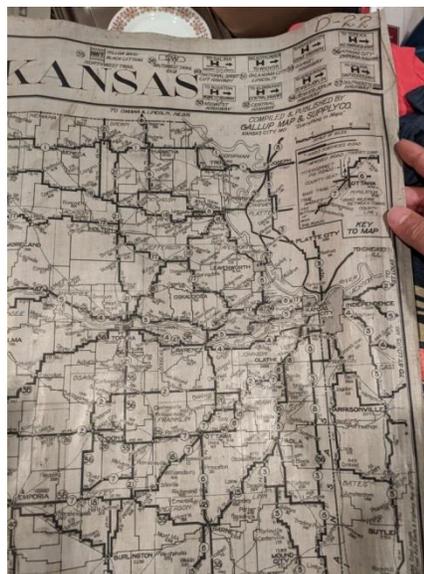
Dinner at Smokehouse Barbecue

chased the Gallup Map Company in 1968, and with the decline in demand for traditional printed maps, has shifted the focus to maps as decorative artwork. They offer high-quality reproductions of many vintage antique and historical maps, including some of the Gallup road maps that we road map collectors are familiar with from our collections – Gallup produced road maps for oil companies such as Diamond, Gulf and Phillips 66 in the 1930s. They also did the state officials for New Jersey (1936-37) and South Carolina (1937-39).

Pat brought along several old road maps to show, as well as some of the original film and tools used to create these maps. It was an excellent presentation, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.



Vintage road maps and cartographic tools from Gallup Map Co.



Detail of a 1920s Gallup map of Kansas

The next morning the show at the Hilton opened again at 9am, and ran until 2pm, though most dealers and customers had cleared out by noon.

For many of the previous shows, we have had to face the dilemma of what to do with all the leftover maps from the Bargain Map Table. Some have been sold by the boxful to the highest bidder, while others were lugged back home by one or more of our members to be brought back again the next year...and, I hate to say, there have been occasions where some maps that just had no interest were relegated to the recycle bin. But this year we did not have to make those choices, because we were very fortunate to have someone buy out ALL of the remaining maps! All-told, between maps sold the first day and the morning of the second, along with the buyout at the end,

the RMCA brought in \$3,964.00, a new record by far. And we do continue to receive more donated maps, so there should be plenty to choose from next year – and they will all be new ones, not seen at previous shows. Below, RMCA members Chris Turner, Mark Greaves and Dave Leach go through some of the many boxes of maps at the Bargain Map Table.



(Photo courtesy of Bill Bleckwenn)



Jim Wakefield showing one of the many great maps at his table

Having missed the MapCons for the past several years, I was happy to have had the chance to attend this year. I traded a few maps, bought quite a few to add to my collection, but most importantly renewed friendships from years past. I am hopeful to be able to attend again next year, and hope to see as many of you there as possible!