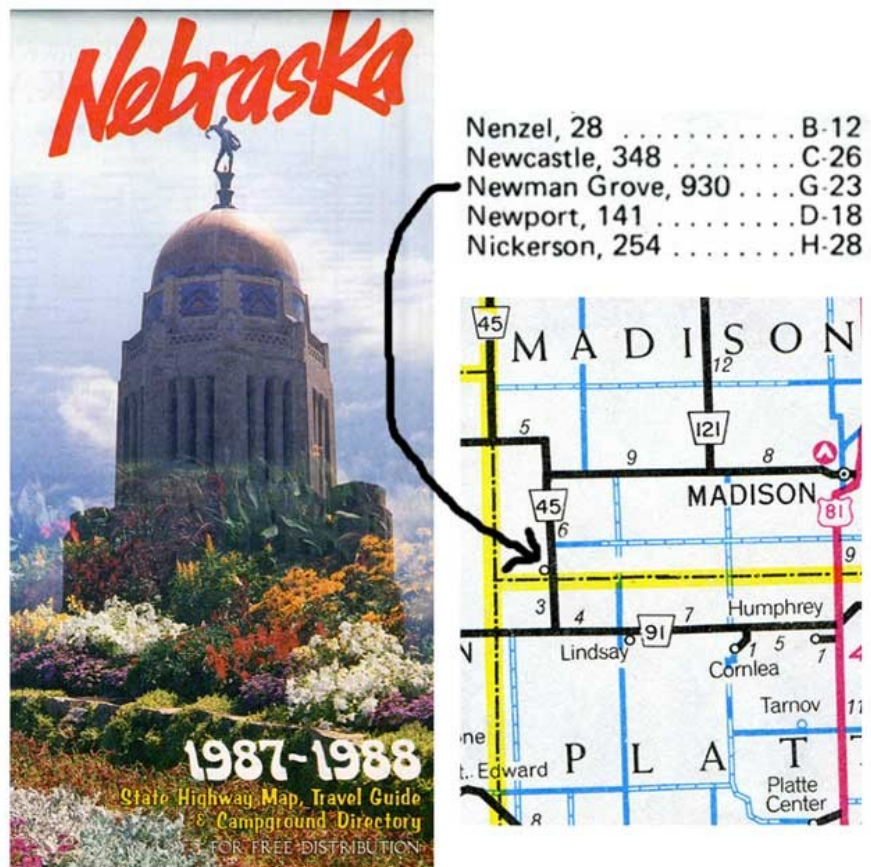


Map Bloopers by **Craig Solomonson** (RMCA #2)

One aspect of collecting that I enjoy is looking for variations. Variations occur for all sorts of reasons--new governor, new roads added, cover photo changed, or somebody just plain screwed up! It is this last group that can be the most interesting. In the world of stamp and coin collecting, an error that is discovered and then corrected can result in a frenzy to obtain examples with those errors. I have compiled a short list of some recent maps that do contain what might be considered a "bloopers." Here are a few:

TYPE 1: UNINTENTIONAL (missing towns, roads, etc.)

1987-88 Nebraska: The town of Newman Grove was omitted on this map. I read an article somewhere that said a small number of maps were reprinted with the town added and given to the residents of Newman Grove. If this is true and you have a copy, you indeed have a real collector's item! I have about 25 copies of this map and none have Newman Grove on it.



1987-8 Nebraska

Similarly, 1997 Michigan maps exist which do not show the town of Iron River. This "bloopers" is a bit more significant, as Iron River is the largest town in Iron County. Supposedly this was corrected in later editions. Of course, not every town can be shown on a map

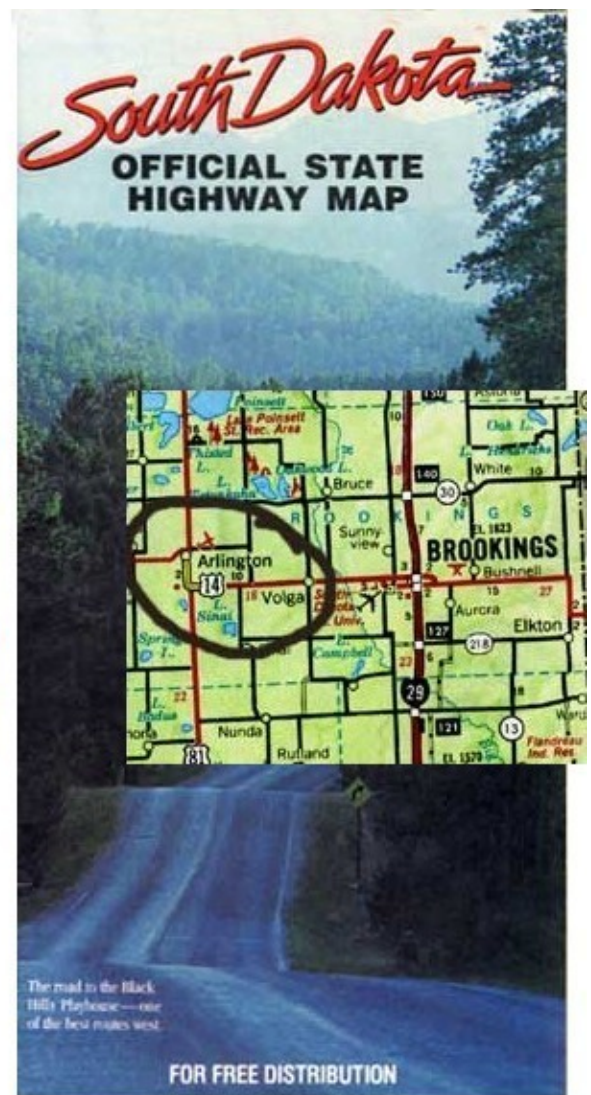
with limited space, so to qualify as a “blooper” it needs to be a fairly important town like Iron River, or as in the case with Newman Grove, the symbol for the town is shown on the map, and it is listed in the index.

Another case involves the 1986 South Dakota Official State Highway Map. The town of Arlington was omitted on this map. It was corrected and reprinted. As I studied the two versions, I noticed that the cover titles are also different and the location of "Brookings" was changed to accommodate the correction. We have referred to these two maps on the *Official Maps Master List* as SD 1986-A and SD 1986-B in the past but now I wonder if the 1986-A might be a 1985 which has never been documented before. Any South Dakota experts out there?

[Editor's
note by
Mark
Greaves:
Having
worked in
the
cartographic
industry, I
would say
that many of
these
missing
town
“bloopers”
may result
from



1986-A (Arlington missing)



1986-B (Arlington added)

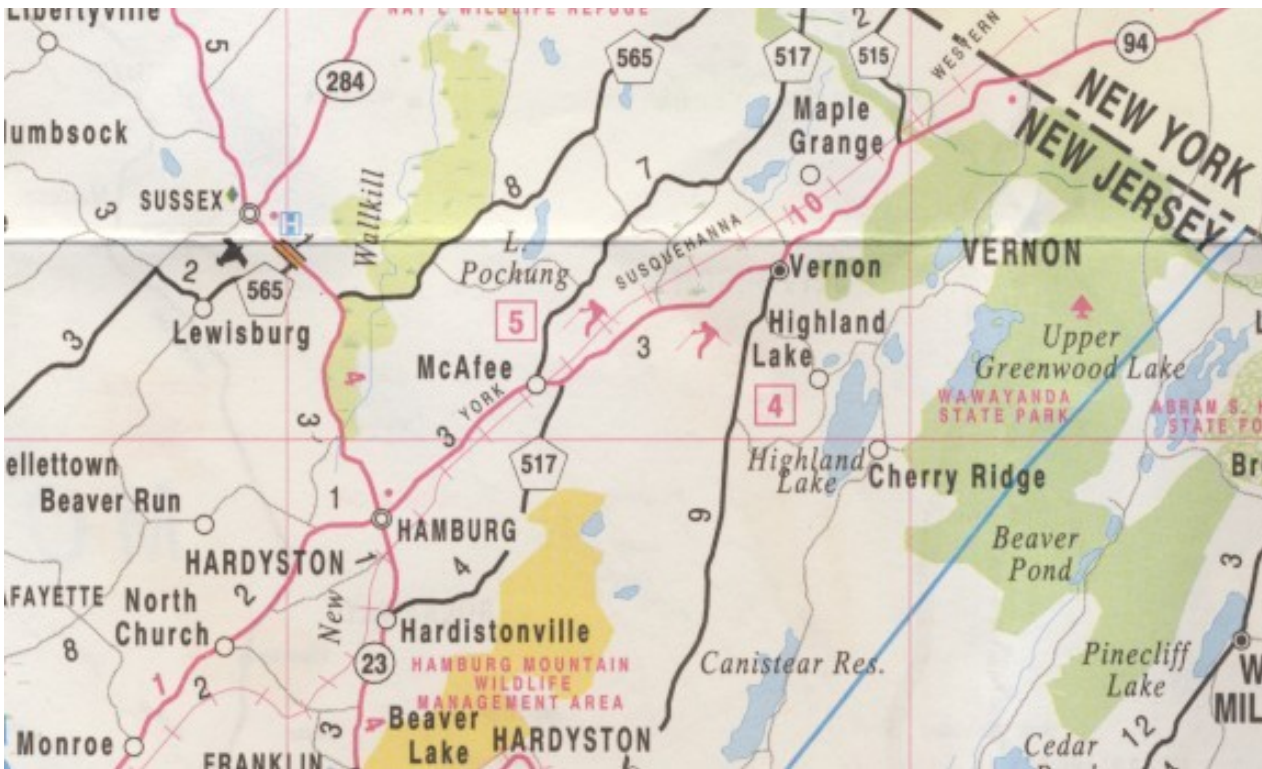
computerized cartography. Algorithms are developed to automatically place names,

eliminate supposedly insignificant features in congested areas, etc. People expect the computers to be reliable, but there is no substitute for a well-trained human eye!]

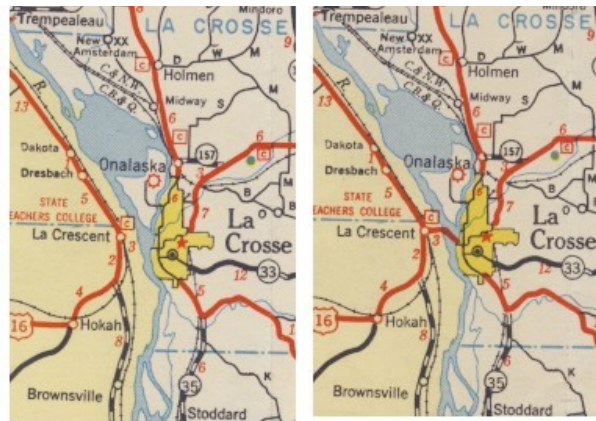
1998 New Jersey: The first version of the 1998 New Jersey map was missing Highway 94 between Monroe and the New York state line. When discovered, it was corrected and reprinted.



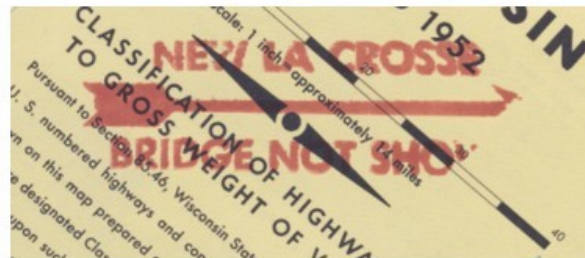
1998 NJ Official -Hwy. 94 missing (above); Hwy. 94 added (below)



Editor's Note: Here is one of my favorite "missing feature" maps. In 1952 the official Wisconsin Highway Map was printed without the bridge over the Mississippi River between La Crosse, Wisconsin and La Crescent, Minnesota. Some of these maps were then stamped "NEW LA CROSSE BRIDGE NOT SHOWN" with an arrow pointing to the missing bridge on the map. Then the map was reprinted, with the bridge in its proper place, thus resulting in three versions of the 1952 Wisconsin official map. This was certainly a serious omission, as there are no other bridges across the Mississippi for many miles in either direction. What's even more intriguing about this error is the term "New" regarding the La Crosse Bridge – looking back at my Wisconsin maps, there is a bridge in the exact same location as far back as 1919! What was so new about it?



**No bridge on left,
corrected on right**



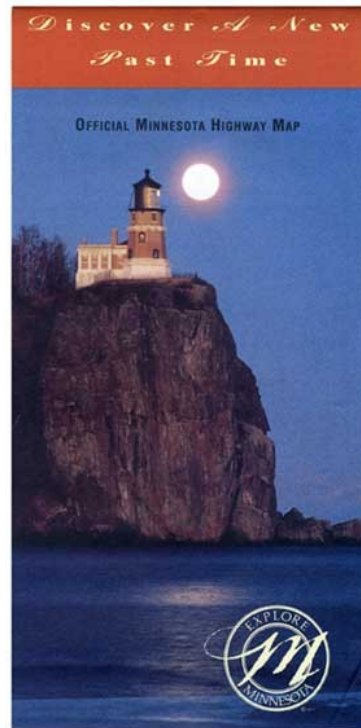
**Stamp on map pointing
out missing bridge**

Another "bloop" that results in three versions of a map to collect involves the 1978 Virginia official. The front cover features a photograph of Mabry Mill. This is identified on the back cover with the caption "Mabry Mill, Blue Ridge Parkway, Patrick County." Only problem is, Mabry Mill is actually in Floyd County! One corrected version of this map has a thick black line through the incorrect information, and another was reprinted with the correct county name. Variations such as this keep road map collecting interesting.]

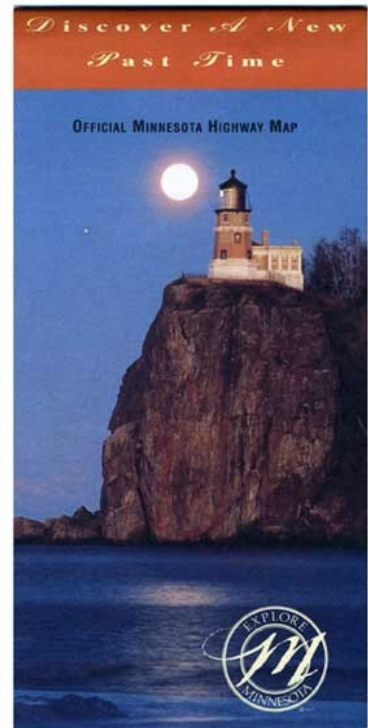
TYPE 2: UNINTENTIONAL (reversed negatives)

I am sure many of these exist, but only in certain situations does it become obvious. For example, a famous landmark or when a vehicle is shown driving in what appears to be the wrong lane.

1993-94 Minnesota: This map features a photo of Split Rock Lighthouse along the north shore Lake Superior. One version of the map with the Best Western ad on the back cover shows the cover reversed. It was corrected.

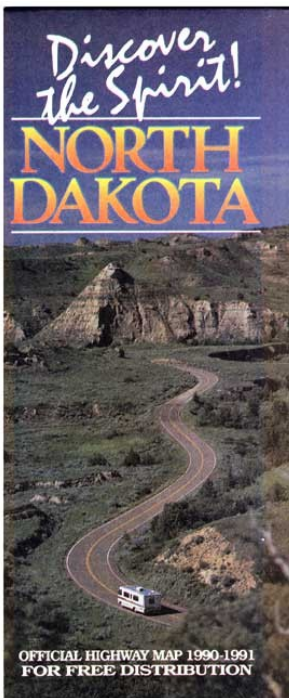


1993-4 Minnesota with correct orientation



1993-4 Minnesota with reversed photo

of

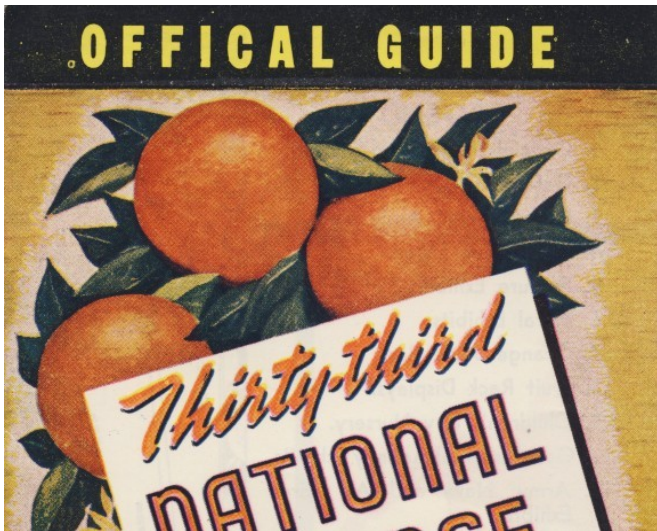


1990-1 North Dakota (reversed photo?)

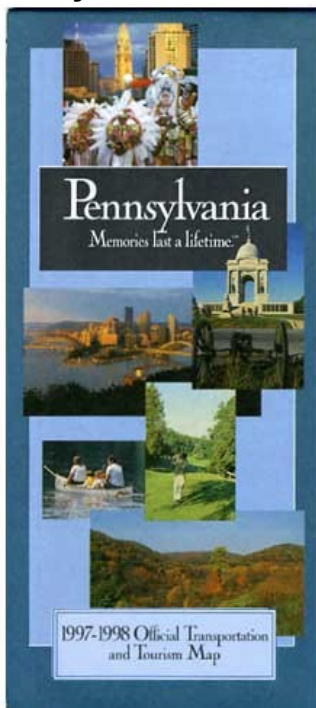
1990-91 North Dakota: This cover features a motor home driving on the wrong side of the road.

TYPE 3: UNINTENTIONAL (poor spelling or judgment)

1948 Mobilgas National Orange Show: The image below shows the top of this map of the fairgrounds in San Bernardino, California on what should have been the "Official" Guide



1997-98 Pennsylvania: The 1997-98 Pennsylvania map had a message to motorists on the back. However, the first version was drafted by a poor speller and never caught till after the maps were printed. On the other hand, maybe the workers really did want a "break" instead!



1997-8 Pennsylvania

The first version...

tube and snow mobile. You see, in Pennsylvania, we take our fun seriously.

Pennsylvania's Highway Workers:



was changed to...

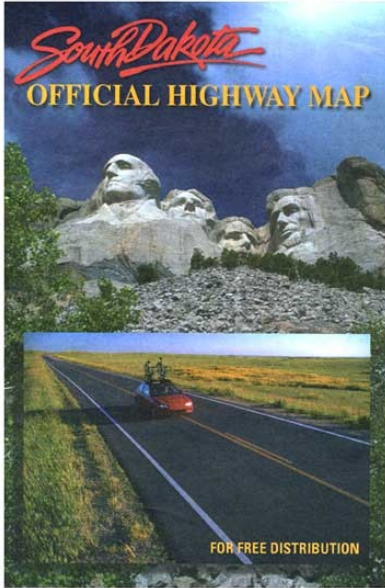
tube and snowmobile. You see, in Pennsylvania, we take our fun seriously.

Pennsylvania's Highway Workers:

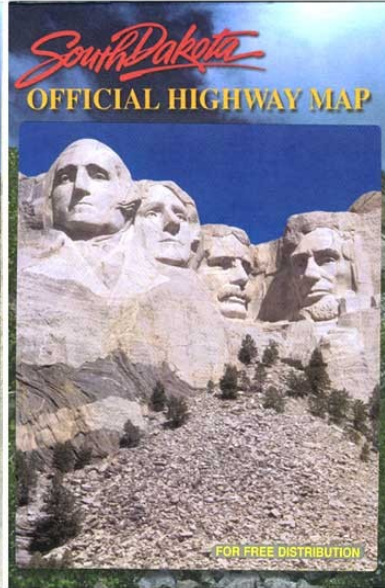


Maybe the workers preferred the first one!

2001 South Dakota: The 2001 South Dakota map showed a red car with two bicycles on top driving down the center of the highway. This apparently did not meet with the approval of some state officials and a glossy sticker showing Mount Rushmore was placed over the original photo. That had to be an expensive fix!



2001 South Dakota (original)
with car in center of road



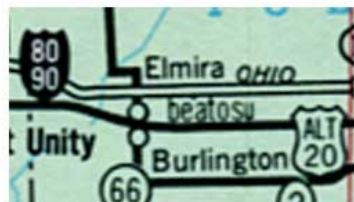
2001 South Dakota with
sticker applied to front

TYPE 4: INTENTIONAL (these are the best!)

1978-79 Michigan: In 1978, Peter Fletcher, chairman of the State Highway Commission and a University of Michigan graduate, inserted the towns of "goblu" and "beatosu" near the bottom edge of the map in Ohio. Someone with more authority did not see the humor in this and the towns were removed and the maps reprinted.



1978-9 Michigan with "beatosu" and "goblu" added along bottom edge



1981 Michigan: Not to be outdone, an MDOT supervisor inserted a water feature in the southeastern part of Baraga County with the name "Sisu." This is the Finnish word for guts or courage. Supposedly, about a half million maps were printed before it was discovered and removed. I have not seen a map with this on it yet, but have seen the map with it removed.



1980-1 Michigan



"Sisu" is in
southeastern
Baraga County.

I don't have
map with it on
yet...

Another blooper that I have seen involved some Skelly maps from the early 1950s. I don't remember which states or regions were involved, but the name of the state (or region) on the cover was not correct. In order to correct it, a paper label was pasted over the incorrect name. [Editor's Note: I have a 1959 Skelly map with "New Mexico" pasted over "Arizona-New Mexico" on the cover.]

I am sure many similar "bloopers" exist and it might be fun to start compiling a list of them and gathering some scans to illustrate them. Any interest in this aspect of road map collecting? Please forward any others that you might know about to Craig at craig@solomonson.net, or your friendly newsletter editor at mgreaves61@gmail.com.