

MARVEL
COMICS

THE New! MARVEL[®]-PHILE

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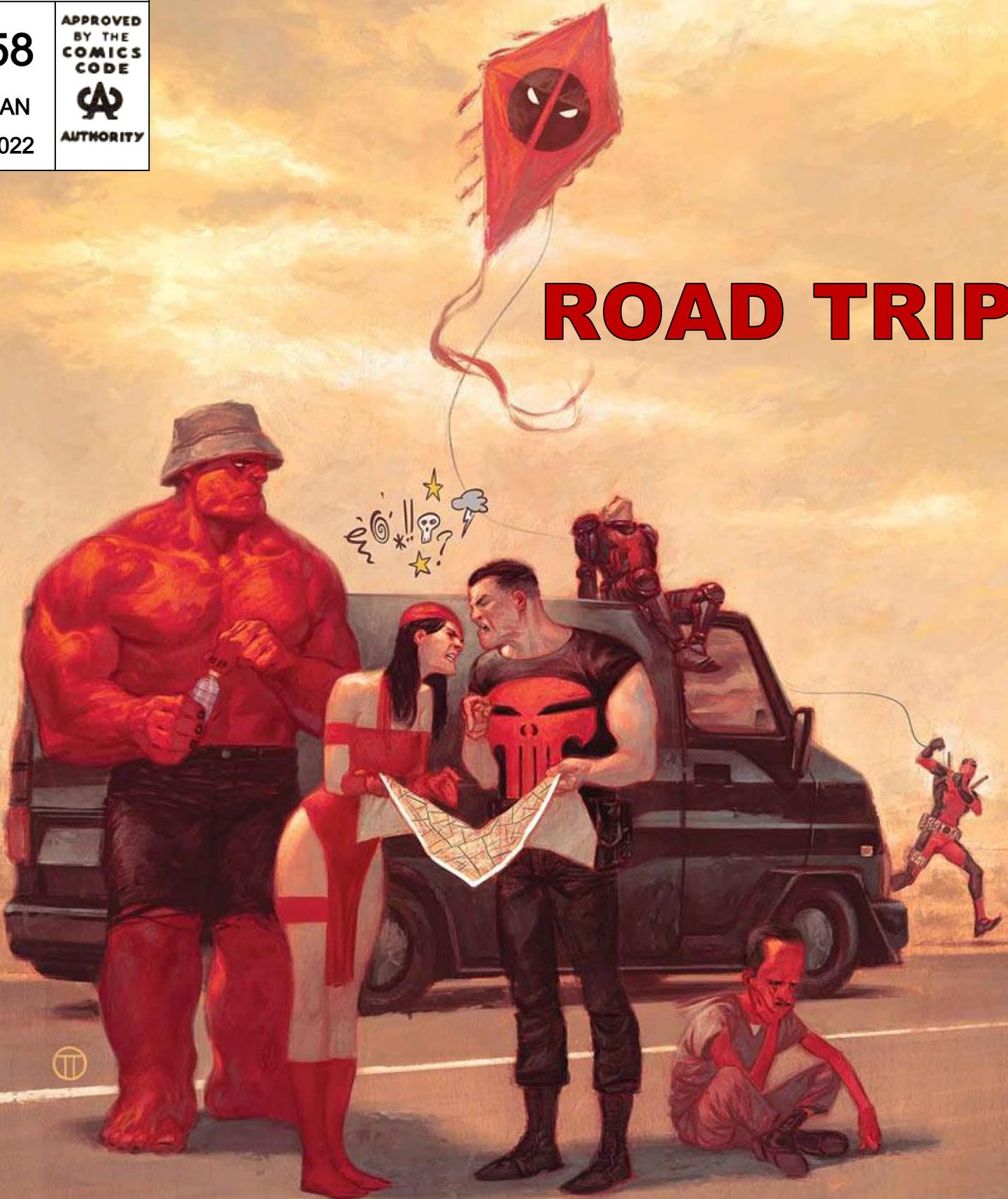
JAN
2022

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COMICS
CODE



AUTHORITY

ROAD TRIP!



THE ^{New!} MARVEL® -PHILE

Are we there yet? Why, yes we are! We present to you the latest issue of The New Marvel-Phile! This month's issue features some locations from our esteemed authors – most of which are their hometowns. However, instead of just some boring writeup, we thought we'd spice things up with either actual Marvel comics appearances or give Judges a few ways to include the location in their games.

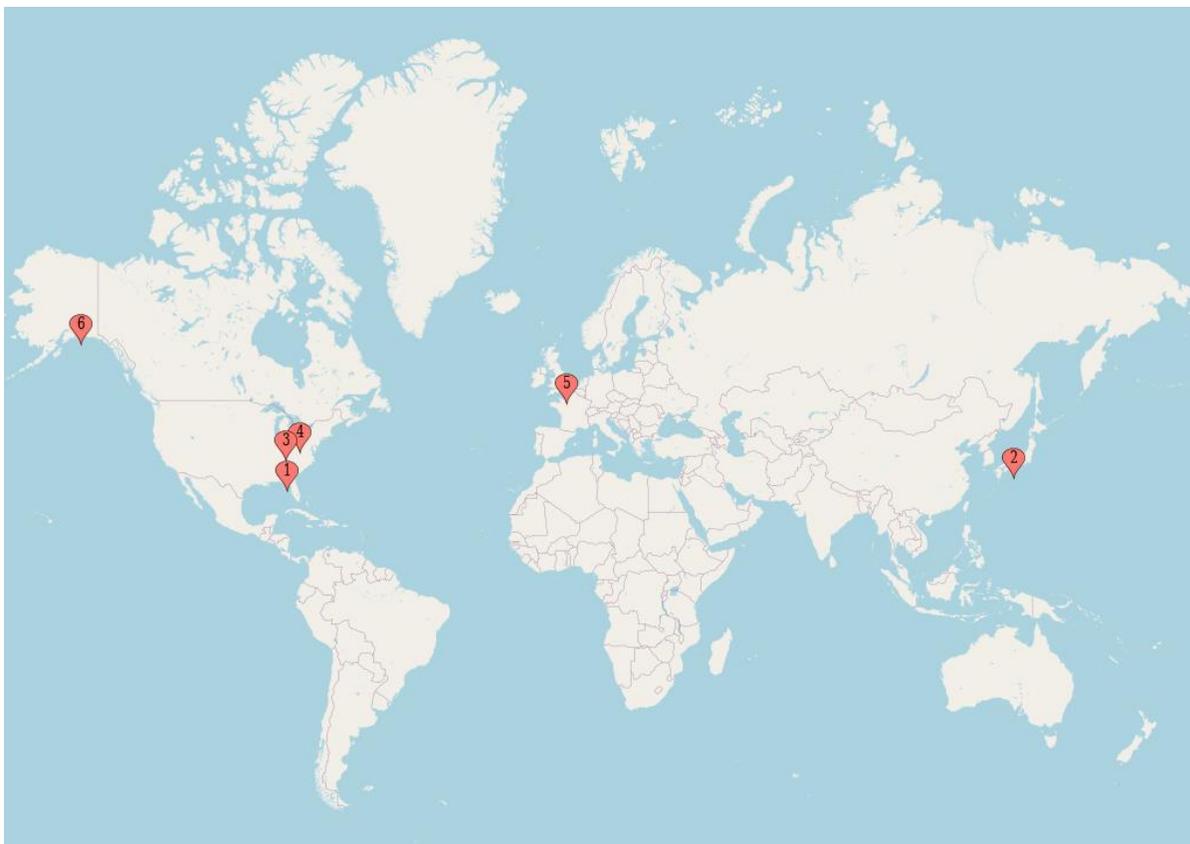
This is something new – we hope you enjoy it! If it's of interest and use for MARVEL SUPER HEROES ROLE-PLAYING GAME Players and Judges, let us know. We may expand this to additional issues, and have our readership provide their own hometown writeups!

In the past, The Marvel-Phile was one of the best resources for new and updated information pertaining to the MARVEL SUPER HEROES

ROLE-PLAYING GAME. We are continuing that fine tradition with the "New Marvel-Phile". We are certain that each edition will bring something new and exciting for those that still enjoy this great game.

Let us know if you like what we are doing here, or if you want to see something different. Requests are also welcome, but please bear in mind, that we cannot possibly accommodate all requests. Feel free to send requests, feedback, and submissions (especially submissions!) to [themarvelphile@gmail.com!](mailto:themarvelphile@gmail.com)

Please enjoy and feel free to give us feedback!



Write-ups by Keith Kilburn, Simon Barns, Steve Watson, John Szalay, Andrew Goldstein

Layout by Steve Jolly

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City Name: Albany
State: Georgia
Country: America
Population: 77,434

Submitted By: Keith Kilburn

History:

Albany is a city in the U.S. state of Georgia. Located on the Flint River, it is the seat of Dougherty County, and is the sole incorporated city in that county. Located in southwest Georgia, it is the principal city of the Albany, Georgia metropolitan area. The population was 77,434 at the 2010 U.S. Census, making it the eighth-largest city in the state. It became prominent in the nineteenth century as a shipping and market center, first served by riverboats. Scheduled steamboats connected Albany with the busy port of Apalachicola, Florida. They were replaced by railroads. Seven lines met in Albany, and it was a center of trade in the Southeast. It is part of the Black Belt, the extensive area in the Deep South of cotton plantations. From the mid-20th century, it received military

investment during World War II and after, that helped develop the region. Albany and this area were prominent during the civil rights era, particularly during the early 1960s as activists worked to regain voting and other civil rights. Railroad restructuring and reduction in the military here caused job losses, but the city has developed new businesses.

Average Citizen Resources: Ranging from Poor to Excellent

Points of Interest:

- Albany Nike Air Base: In reality, these nuclear missile silos and the accompanying base were decommissioned in the 1970s, in your game who knows what will still be lurking in these tunnels and silos? Maybe it was 'GAMMA' missiles, instead of Nuclear...
- Abandoned Hospital: On the banks of the Flint River, this abandoned hospital has fallen into disrepair and has sat for over 2 decades unused. Who knows what facilities might still be of potential use to your villains as

a place for unwholesome experiments, 'special' surgeries, and genetic tampering? Being that most hospitals make use of steam tunnels, there is no telling how far the reach of this facility could extend...

- The Headless Horse: There is a tale of a headless ghostly white horse, that roams the banks of the Flint River in search of its lost owner. Maybe it was once the steed of a Ghost Rider, a horrible haunt, or an equally headless horseman...
- Criminal elements: Despite having a small-town feel, Albany is the 8th largest city in Georgia and has a thriving organized crime element. There are backroom deals, stereotypical Italian mobsters who hold court and then there is the Dixie Mafia with the fingers in the pie...
- Occult Activities: despite being in the southern Bible Belt, the occult and supernatural are very much alive in the south. Rumor has it that during the 70s, the Nike air base property was rife with animal sacrifices and all sorts of summoning rituals.
- Racism: While not as prevalent as it once was, racism still exists in Albany. Could the Klan, the Sons of Serpents, the Friends of Humanity or other racist organizations be lurking just around the corner?

Notable Residents:

- Tobias Robertson: A local Fagin-like petty criminal with delusions of the big time. He employs a gang of thieves, junkies, and scumbags who he fronts through a used car repair shop that is in reality an automotive chop shop.
- The Reverend: Zoltan Thorne, a onetime fire and brimstone preacher turned cult leader and snake handler. He lives in a compound on the outskirts of Albany with his 65 followers. Rumor has it he has a hypnotic-like control over those who follow him and that they rarely, if ever, betray him. Those that do, don't usually live to tell the story.





City Name: Itami
State: Hyogo Prefecture
Country: Japan
Population: 197,335

Submitted By: John Szalay

City flag:



History:

Itami is considered something of a bedroom community for the nearby metropolises of Osaka and Kobe. It was formerly a wealthy castle town during the Sengoku period. Araki Murashige ruled the area under Oda Nobunaga from Arioka castle. Nothing is left of the castle today except a corner of the foundation that serves as a small park.

The city's history also claims Itami to be the place where the alcoholic drink known as sake was invented, particularly seishu, or clear sake. There are still sake breweries in the downtown area to this day. One major brewery provides a special tap outside their building for locals to freely collect water used as part of the brewing process for use in home cooking.

Thousands of the Japanese cherry trees that grow in Washington DC were donated as a gift from Japan to the United States in 1912. The scions for these trees were taken in December 1910 from the famous collection along the banks of the Arakawa River in Adachi Ward, a suburb of Tokyo, and grafted onto specially selected understock produced in Itami.

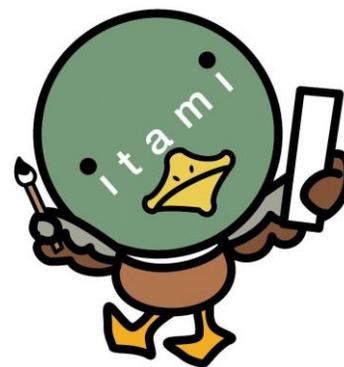
Average Citizen Resources: Good

Points of Interest:

- Itami hosts two small bases for the Japanese Ground Self Defense Forces. Camp Senzo and Camp Itami. Of the equipment kept on base, most are heavy duty trucks used for troop and supply movements in rescue and recovery operations during natural disasters and kaiju attacks. A small amount of light armored vehicles and artillery is also available.
- Itami Airport (also called Osaka Airport) has its runways and tarmac in Itami though the terminal building is in neighboring Toyonaka city. Road access to the terminal from the Itami side is via a long tunnel that passes underneath the runways.
- Mitsubishi Electronics is a major employer in the city with a large plant and several employee dormitories.
- Itami is served by two major commuter train lines. Hankyu Railways (four station spur line connecting to the main Kobe/Osaka line) and West Japan Railways (usually abbreviated as JR).
- Koyaike Park contains a large model of the Japanese archipelago set in a city pond close to Itami City Hall and JGSDF Camp Senzo. The Park is a frequent sight for passengers flying into or out of Itami Airport.
- Inano Jinja is a major Shinto shrine

for the city. The shrine grounds contain a covered sumo ring for use in exhibitions by professional and amateur wrestlers, including a yearly children's sumo event.

- The city mascot is a duck named Tamimaru. His eyes are made from the dots on top of the lower-case letter l used in the city name.







City Name: Norwood
State: Ohio
Country: America
Population: 19,776

Submitted By: Keith Kilburn

History:

Initially established in 1809 as the village of Sharpsburg, the name changed to Norwood in 1869 with the origins of the name being in question as there are several stories as to where "Norwood" came from. Known primarily for its blue-collar workers and factory work having been home to major rail ways, General Motors, American Playing Cards, and many others.

Average Citizen Resources: Ranging from Poor to Good

Points of Interest:

- **Unused Subway Tunnels:** Cincinnati has unused subway tunnels and a couple of platforms. They were constructed in the early part of the 20th century, but money ran out leaving them partially constructed, but unused. These tunnels run from downtown Cincinnati into Norwood, near the Water Works public pool and pump house.
- **UFOs over Norwood:** In 1949, a UFO hovered over Norwood long enough



to make local and tristate news. What did they want? Who were they looking for and could they come back?

- **Brewery Tunnels:** Norwood and other parts of Cincinnati (Over the Rhein) were once home to numerous breweries, often right across the street from one another, storage was sometimes on the same streets and other times the breweries were connected by tunnels, sometimes through basements and other times

tunneled directly under the streets where people and citizens walked above and stretching out many blocks. Many of these tunnels still exist (although they've fallen into disrepair...) and were put into use by bootleggers and gangsters during prohibition.

- **Organized Crime:** Norwood has an organized crime element, despite being a smaller city. As a crossroads to other parts of Cincinnati, Dayton and Columbus (I-75 and I-71 run



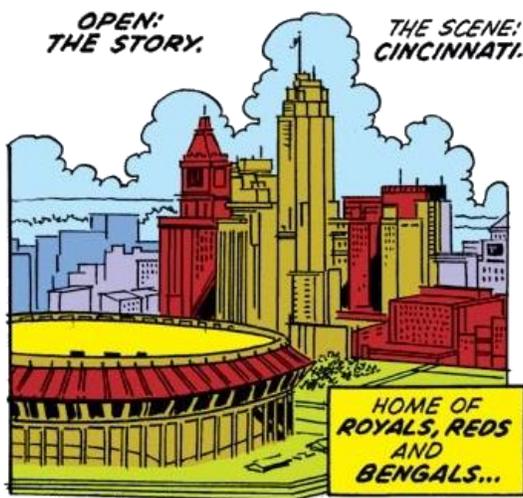


through the heart of Norwood...) illegal goods and drugs come and go through the city. There is a rampant Meth problem in the area, drugs can be common and there is a Marijuana czar of sorts who if you purchase, sell or transport, you go through him. There is an Italian criminal element in the city as well as German and Irish elements as well.

- (Fictional): Stark International: There is a Cincinnati division of Stark's company.
- (Fictional): Hercules battled a dragon in Cincinnati, as close as the two cities are it is likely there was damage to Norwood and is it possible there could be dragon eggs or other creatures lurking about?

Notable Residents:

- The Lump (A very fictional version of a real person): Real name Wilson Michaels, the marijuana czar of Norwood, an overweight former biker with ties to the local criminal underworld, the Dixie Mafia, and other criminals throughout the country. Rumor has it he is related to a powerful crime figure on the east coast, possibly even an illegitimate child sired out of wedlock.
- Antonio and Louie DeMarino (Fictional versions of real people): Two local Italian gas station owners, they worked their way into local politics attempting to create a veneer of political power. Rumors surround the two brothers that they are possibly connected to the Maggia, as an uncle of theirs was smuggled out of the country only to appear in the foothills of Italy.





Village Name: Portersville
Township: Muddy Creek Township
State: Pennsylvania
Country: USA
Population: Portersville Borough: 268.
Muddy Creek Township: 2,267

Submitted by: Steve Watson

Muddy Creek Township is located along the western border of Butler County, with Lawrence County to the west. Muddy Creek, a tributary of Slippery Rock Creek, forms the northern boundary of the township. The creek is impounded in the township to form Lake Arthur, surrounded by Moraine State Park.

The township surrounds the borough of Portersville but is separate from it. The unincorporated community of Lake Arthur Estates, a census-designated place, is in the northwest part of the township.

Interstate 79 passes through the township north to south with access from Exit 96 (Portersville) and Exit 99 (U.S. Route 422, the Benjamin Franklin Highway). U.S. Route 19 also crosses the township, roughly parallel to I-79.

History:

Portersville: This community was surveyed into town lots in 1825 and named Stewartville in honor of a son of the first white settler of the township. A year later, the post office was established, and the name was changed to Portersville in honor of Gov. David Porter.

Muddy Creek Township: This, as originally constituted, formed one of the thirteen townships into which Butler County was divided in 1804, by order of the court of quarter sessions. At that time its area included all the present township of Franklin, as well as portions of Connoquenessing and Worth townships. It was reduced within its present boundaries in 1854. Its name is derived from Muddy Creek, which forms its northern boundary and separates it from Worth township.

Average Citizen Resources: Poor to Excellent

Points of Interest:

[McConnells Mill State Park](#)

McConnells Mill State Park, west of Portersville, holds its Heritage Days in September. Hell's Hollow Falls is found in the McConnells Mill State Park, Portersville, Pennsylvania. The Hell's Hollow area has a wide array of wildflowers and habitats, in addition to what is seen in the gorge area of Slippery Rock Creek. One of the many trails leads to a cascading waterfall and one of the two remaining iron furnaces in the area. The Lawrence Furnace was constructed about 1864 against and inside a cliff to take advantage of the natural ramp for charging the furnace. The Wilroy Iron Furnace, built in 1854, and one of the best preserved in Western Pennsylvania, is located just north of McConnells Mill State Park on private land (Rose Point).

History

McConnells Mill State Park was formally dedicated as a State Park in October 1957 and became a National Natural Landmark in May 1974. The striking scenery and deep gorge of the Slippery Rock Creek, flowing through the park, is attributed to the glaciation of the area several tens of thousands of years ago. The southernmost extent of the Wisconsin Ice Sheet dammed up Muddy Creek and Slippery Rock Creek, creating a lake system. As the ice melted, glacial Lake Arthur drained into Slippery Rock valley. As the ice dam receded, this spectacular gorge was cut to a depth of 122 meters (400 ft) [27 floors] through an otherwise rolling countryside, and large house-sized sandstone boulders slid part way down the gorge. The creation of this gorge reversed the natural drainage patterns changing the flow of the water from the St. Lawrence River to the Ohio River watershed.

In 1868, Daniel Kennedy rebuilt his original mill, which was destroyed by fire. Thomas McConnell bought that mill in 1875 and improved it by replacing the water wheel with water turbines and the grinding stones with rolling mills. The mill, one of the first rolling mills in the country, processed corn, oats, and buckwheat for local customers. The mill operated until 1928 when sagging profits and advanced technology caught up with it. The mill and the surrounding property were conveyed from the McConnell family to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and later to the Commonwealth with the wishes that they be preserved for future generations.

Nearby Attractions

The covered bridge in the park, property of Lawrence County, is a Howe truss bridge, built in 1874. The bridge is covered primarily to protect the inner structures from rotting and rusting away which cut down on maintenance. It is one of only two covered bridges in the county. The Cleland Rock area provides a scenic





vista of the Slippery Rock Gorge, which is unique to the area.

GAME USE: Lost hikers [+20 Karma per rescue]; render first aid for fallen climbers, swamped kayakers, visitors ignoring safety warnings; Iron Furnace at Hell's Hollow if mages are dealing with fae.

Moraine State Park

Moraine State Park is named for the glacial moraines that cover its land. The moraines were formed at the conclusion of the last glacial period, a time when glaciers covered much of North America. A tongue of the glacier reached into Pennsylvania and, as the ice receded, left deposits of gravel, sand, and clay. These created a landscape of gently rolling hills.

History

The Erie were the area's dominant Indian tribe until they were all but wiped out by the Iroquois during the Beaver Wars of the 1600s. The French and Dutch demand for beaver pelts gave rise to great struggles for control of the territory between Indian nations as well as later open conflict between the British and French.

English Settlers followed French fur trappers into the Moraine State Park area during the 1700s. George Washington travelled through the park area while he was a young colonel with the Virginia Militia in his attempt to notify the French the area was claimed by the English. Washington most likely stayed twice within park boundaries and was shot at and narrowly escaped being killed by an Indian just south of the park. There is a Pre-Revolutionary cabin behind the Davis Hollow Marina that is the headquarters of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the North Country Trail Association. Visitors may still book an overnight stay at the cabin.

Nearby historic structures also include Old Stone House, a historic tavern and trading stop that has been turned into a museum by Slippery Rock University. McConnells Mill is a rustic early American grist mill and central

attraction at neighboring McConnells Mill State Park.

Farmers cleared the land of trees and drained the swamps, but farming was difficult due to the glacial till beneath the shallow soil. Other settlers turned to the natural resources left by the glaciers and mined sand and gravel deposits. Limestone and clay mines were opened in the area; shale was discovered and was mined, as well as bituminous coal. Coal mining was a profitable enterprise, and seven coal beds were deep mined, and later strip mined. Later still, wells were drilled to extract oil and natural gas from deep within the Earth. When the mines were cleared and the wells tapped out, the land was left barren. Since the mines were left uncapped, the topsoil eroded from the land.

The rebirth of the land in and surrounding Moraine State Park can be tied to the efforts of Frank W. Preston who moved to nearby Meridian in 1926. He had emigrated from England to establish a glass research lab. In addition to his work with glass, Preston was also a geologist and naturalist. On a trip to the Muddy Creek Valley, he noticed that, despite the barren landscape that had been left by the oil wells and strip mines, the valley had a rich natural history of moraines. Preston worked to form the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, which purchased the land that became Moraine State Park, recreated the glacial landscape, and preserved open spaces. Muddy Creek was dammed to form Lake Arthur.

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy worked with the state to reclaim the land. The mines were sealed, over 400 oil and gas wells were capped, and the land that had been stripped was covered again with backfill and graded to resemble its former condition. The soil was specially treated with fertilizer to allow for the growth of thousands of trees, shrubs, and grasses.

Nearby Attractions

Lake Arthur was completed with the opening of Moraine State Park on

May 23, 1970. During the opening ceremony, Preston invoked the legend of King Arthur, whose sword Excalibur was given to him by the Lady of the Lake with the instruction that it was to be returned to the lake upon his death. Preston had "Excalibur" inscribed on Edmund Arthur's geologist hammer and presented it to the park manager, and he rowed to the center of the new lake and tossed it in. The Moraine/Lake Arthur Regatta (in August each year) has water related activities for the entire family.

GAME USE: Poaching, boat accidents, bridge sabotage, sabotage of oil/gas well caps, illegal scavenger hunts [Excalibur at bottom of Lake Arthur, cache in sunken Village of Isle], race fixing in Regatta, thieves burgling cabins, campers overdue and must be tracked down in woods, wintertime pursuits include sledding, cross country skiing, ice fishing. Park rangers warn against driving on the ice as thickness will vary.

Canoe/Rowboat:

Type: Water **Cost:** TY
Control: GD **Speed:** FE
Body: TY **Protection:** FE

Sailboat:

Type: Water **Cost:** GD
Control: PR **Speed:** PR
Body: TY **Protection:** FE

Motorboat:

Type: Water **Cost:** GD
Control: EX **Speed:** EX
Body: TY **Protection:** TY

The Rowboat includes all those oared vehicles designed for that purpose (as opposed to rafts, which may be jury-rigged). Rowboats are moved by oar power and include rowboats as well as canoes and life rafts. Rowboats hold upwards of 20 people in the latter case, though 4-5 is the more normal number.

The Sailboat includes all manner of small sailing vehicles, including the sunfish and sailfish craft that dot the waterways. For all sailing vehicles, the



speed is increased one column shift to the right when moving in the same direction as the wind and may not exceed the listed speed when moving against the wind.

The Motorboat is the standard rowboat with a motor attached. It includes shuttles, dinghies, and other small craft.

Scuba Gear allows the wearer to breathe tanked air for 2 hours. and as such dive to moderate depths in the ocean. The hoses and mask are made of Good material, and the tanks are made of Remarkable material. If the tanks are punctured, they will explode for Remarkable damage to all in the same area.

Unionville Fire Department maintains a Water Rescue & Dive Team used at local parks and waterways, including Lake Arthur and Slippery Rock Creek.

[Cooper's Lake Campground:](#)

Site of SCA Pennsic War and the Bantam Jeep Heritage Festival. The Pennsic War is an annual American medieval camping event held by the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), a "war" between two large regional SCA groups: the Kingdom of the East and the Middle Kingdom. It is the single largest annual SCA event, with more than 10,000 people attending each year, from as far as China, South Korea, Sweden, Germany, France, Italy, Greece, and Australia. The Tuchux, a non-member splinter group of the SCA, are also frequent participants, holding no allegiance to either Kingdom.

Pennsic is held in late summer and lasts for 17 days (begins on a Friday, ends on the third Sunday). The event centers on pre-17th century history and culture with all campers dressing in historically relevant clothing. The winners of the battles and other activities receive war points, and the Kingdom with the most war points wins that Pennsic.

Local impact: With over 10,000 people, Pennsic becomes the fourth largest

populated place in Butler County, PA (after Cranberry and Butler Townships, and the City of Butler). Pennsic's annual economic impact on the immediate area amounts to \$1.8 million dropped into the Butler County economy, with many local businesses citing the period during Pennsic being among their busiest of the year.

GAME USE: In addition to having people from all 7 continents in one campground, with espionage and skullduggery possibilities, celebrities may have their entourage in tow taking part. Joe Magi, faithful Yinzer and gamer and A-list actor/stuntman/director, comes from Hollywood with Minerva Delphia to do battle. [Minerva taking part in the Peerage as Joe vies for the right to declare his lady "fairest", later called the "Queen of Love and Beauty". (I could see Joe bringing some A-List gamers/stuntmen/actors including Simon Williams [Wonder Man] as part of the entourage). He also recorded footage in full kit with the cooperation of the SCA for the use in videos for his return to Children's Hospital as Game Referee.

Ultra-Light/Paramotor:

Type: Air **Cost:** EX
Control: EX **Speed:** TY
Body: FE **Protection:** Sh0

The Ultralight is a small glider powered by a gasoline engine. Its mylar wings make it incredibly fragile, and it offers little Protection to the rider. It is, however, relatively inexpensive, portable, and makes little noise.

A conspiracy to distract any security from the campground via staged aircraft landing [hang glider, ultralight, paramotor] in Lake Arthur while Mysterio seeks to upstage George Romero and Sam Raimi with his gases and holograms simulating a zombie apocalypse on the battlefields. In the chaos, Minerva Delphia is kidnapped and rushed off down the Interstates before the emergency response can arrive from Butler or New Castle.

First responders sent to Lake Arthur for the ultralight or other airframe would be out of position to respond to Cooper's Lake. Reinforcements would be traveling on Rt. 422. The Unionville Fire Department would be sending divers to Lake Arthur. Portersville Muddy Creek Township Volunteer Fire Department and Portersville EMS

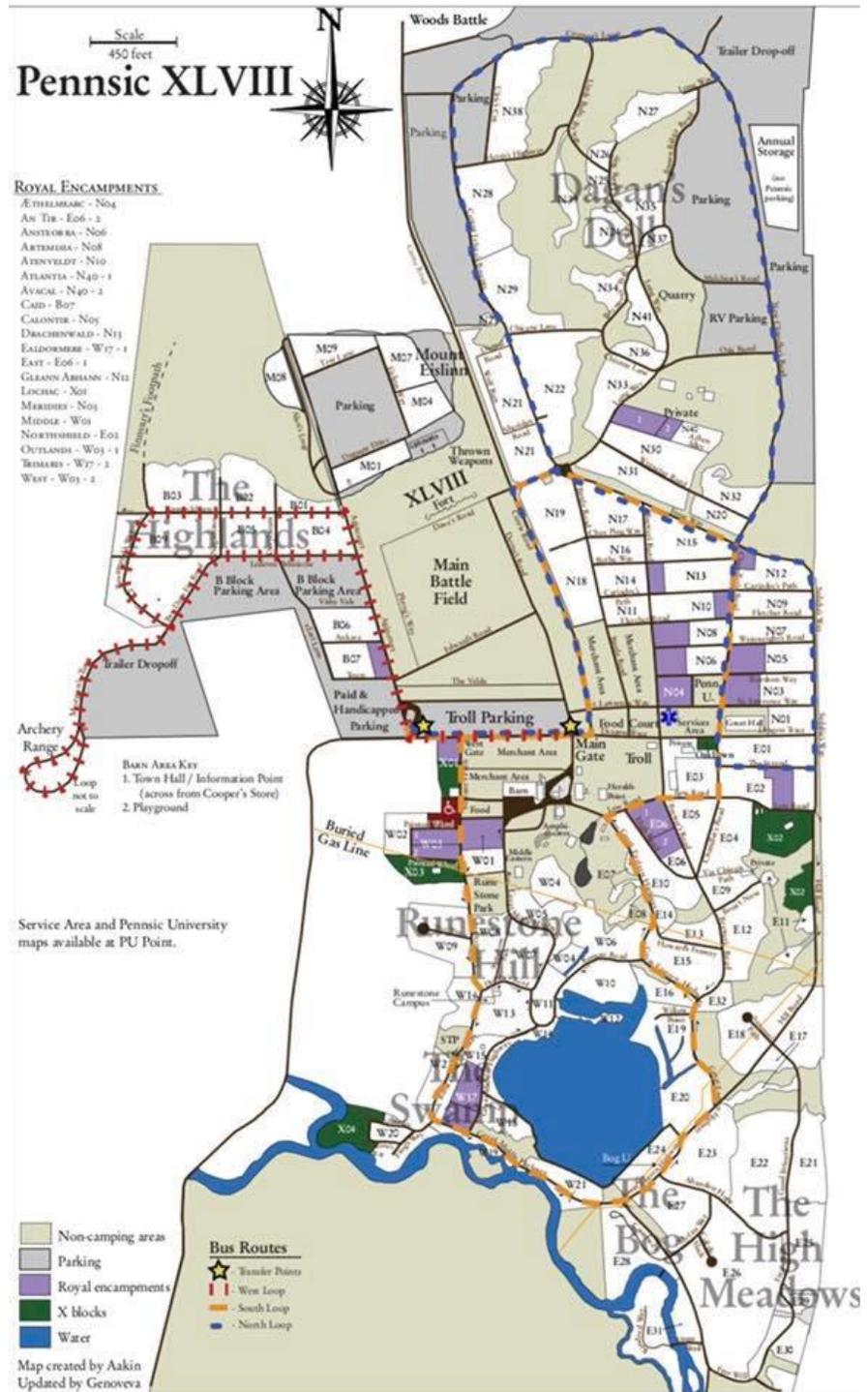




would send crews out to North or South Shore.

Since it is designed for crossing interstate borders, it would be a National Conspiracy. The plan is to arrive in a safe house and lay low while an automated ransom demand is delivered to the studio, agency, or the remaining spouse. False leads planted will lead pursuit to locales like the pig iron forge in Hell's Hollow at McConnells Mill for the payoff or red herrings at the closed Muddy Creek Portersville Elementary school. [The vehicle driven from the campground is parked in the attached garage and countermeasures activated as the squad takes her through the building to a waiting vehicle to the next checkpoint. The former school had been converted into a 2-story ambush/diversion.

The media will send news crews from Pittsburgh, Youngstown, and even Erie markets once the kidnapping of the highest paid actress on television becomes public knowledge. The high-profile case would be managed by State Police troopers from Butler barracks and FBI agents from the Pittsburgh field office. The international patronage of Pennsic at the private campground would widen the scope to additional agencies.





Town Name: Royal Tunbridge Wells
County: Kent
Country: The United Kingdom
Population: 56,000

Submitted by: Simon Barns

History:

Royal Tunbridge Wells is a town in Kent, England, 30 miles southeast of central London, close to the border with East Sussex on the northern edge of the High Weald, whose sandstone geology is exemplified by the rock formation High Rocks. The town was a spa in the Restoration and a fashionable resort in the mid-1700s under Beau Nash when the Pantiles, and its chalybeate spring, attracted visitors who wished to take the waters. Though its popularity as a spa town waned with the advent of sea bathing, the town still derives much of its income from tourism.

Its largest shopping center is Royal Victoria Place, notably opened by Princess Diana in the 1990s.

Average Citizen Resources: Poor to Remarkable. The town is in the commuter belt, so housing is split between those who work in the town and those who commute to London.

More information about London can be found in Marvel Phile #40 "The British Invasion 2"

Points of Interest:

- The Pantiles is a Georgian colonnade of shops that also houses the Chalybeate Spring. These red-tinted waters are famously that color because, in a tale of how the blacksmith, St. Dunstan, seized the Devil's nose (or backside) with hot tongs, this is where the Devil cooled off.
- Panini Comics, Marvel's UK publisher, used to have their offices on the Pantiles, but with growth, have now moved to the top of town.
- Calverley Grounds is a park in the center of Tunbridge Wells. Local dowsers have been spotted in the area — and have, when asked for

what they search, told that they seek the Holy Grail (or an alien spacecraft)

- Tunbridge Wells was the birthplace of Subbuteo, table football (or soccer). The diminutive players, smaller than finger size, were flicked by children across the nation over dining tables. Now, their main place is in a museum. Imagine if some villainous mastermind found a way to animate these to rob such a museum. The Amelia, opened in February 2022, may not be safe.



Notable residents:

The town's MP is Greg Clark, a member of the Conservative Party. This name is found hilarious by people who like Hot Pockets and Mountain Dew.

Irina McCool, presenter of television's "Watching You" has recently moved to the area. The loss of her dog immediately on moving in can only be the work of a villainous gang of ne'er-do-wells. If only there was a local superhero.

A crime fighter appeared in Tunbridge Wells in the early 2000s. This nameless hero dressed in a monkey outfit and seemed to focus their efforts on helping old ladies across the road and picking up litter rather than fighting crime per se, though once foiled a

mugging by shocking a group of assailants so much the victim escaped.

The Tunbridge Wells Superhero: Ringpullman appeared in the late 2010's. Rather than fighting crime he took to educating the townsfolk about the dangers of litter, roaming through the town on his black motorized wobbleboard.



A fictional hero (Looking Glass) from the town appeared in little known DC Comics in the 1980's as part of their Invasion Event. Dexter Hastings was a children's writer who was taken into space and given the powers to absorb and reflect light. He appeared in 9 issues before retreating into the back issues and long boxes of history.

A time traveler and his fur clad companion are reputed to have lived in the area. He was notorious for his big blue box and penchant for long scarves and jelly babies.



City Name: Valdez
Country: United States
State: Alaska
Population: 4,000

Submitted by: Andrew Goldstein

History: Valdez, Alaska, is a small town located at the head of a fjord on the eastern side of Prince William Sound. The region was originally a trade crossroads used by the Native Sugpiaq, Ahtna and Eyak tribes. The city was incorporated in 1901, when prospectors came to the port and set up a tent city at the base of Valdez Glacier during the 1898 gold rush. It suffered catastrophic damage during the 1964 Alaska earthquake and is located near the site of the disastrous 1989 Exxon Valdez oil tanker spill. Today, it is notable as the loading point of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline system and is also a commercial fishing port, freight terminal, and tourist destination. It is also a destination for extreme winter sports and was the headquarters for the World Extreme Skiing Competitions from 1990-2000.

Average Citizen Resources: Good

Points of Interest:

Valdez Marine Terminal: The Valdez Marine Terminal (VMT) marks the southern terminus of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS). Situated on 1,000 acres on the southern shore Valdez, this is where tankers have loaded Alaska North Slope Crude cargo since TAPS startup in 1977. The VMT is run by the Alyeska Pipeline Services Company, a consortium of stakeholder oil companies that use the Pipeline and Valdez's largest employer. The VMT stretches in elevation from sea level to 660 feet up the forested and often snowy Valdez mountainside.

The facility has its own emergency and fire response team and creates its own power. Access to the VMT is restricted to authorized personnel only, and a sizeable marine security zone is patrolled by the U.S. Coast Guard. The VMT operates two loading berths, with 14 storage tanks in service and a

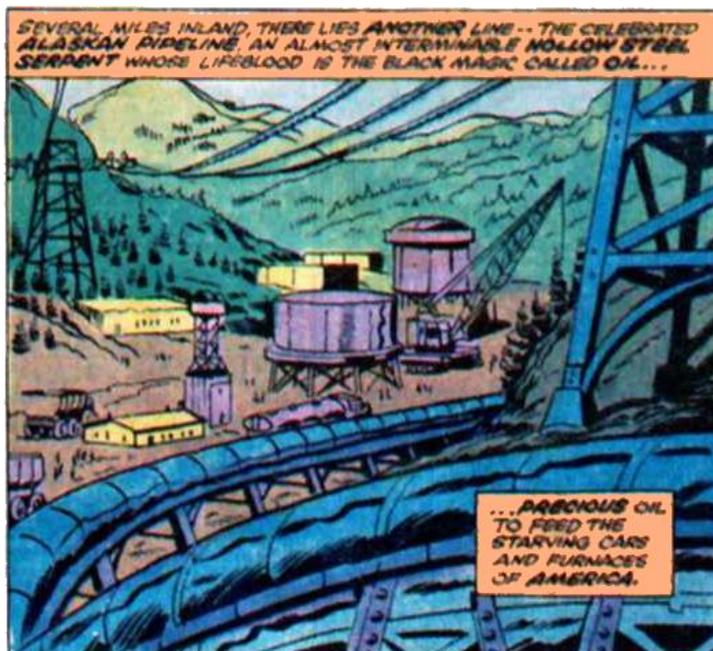


working inventory capacity of 277 million gallons of crude oil. The huge concrete tanks are of reinforced steel and concrete, and able to withstand Amazing physical damage as well as Remarkable heat, cold, and electrical damage. It is designed so that any explosion will be directed into the mountainside to reduce damage to the surrounding area. Response vessels are on standby and will appear on the

scene if needed within 2 rounds.

The Pipeline itself is about 800 miles long from oil wells on the North Slope down to Valdez; about half of that length is buried underground. Most of the Pipeline is made of 1/2-inch-thick steel that can withstand Remarkable physical damage, and Excellent damage from cold, electricity, and earthquakes.

In a Marvel campaign: Both the





VMT and the Pipeline itself are pretty sturdy, but that doesn't mean a subterranean or aquatic monster might not try to hurt it. As in real life, the VMT is a terrorist target that could look awfully tempting to the likes of Hydra, AIM, or ULTIMATUM. And in the Marvel Universe, Pipeline stakeholder companies would undoubtedly include Roxxon, who might seek to gain a majority control of its crude oil cargo.

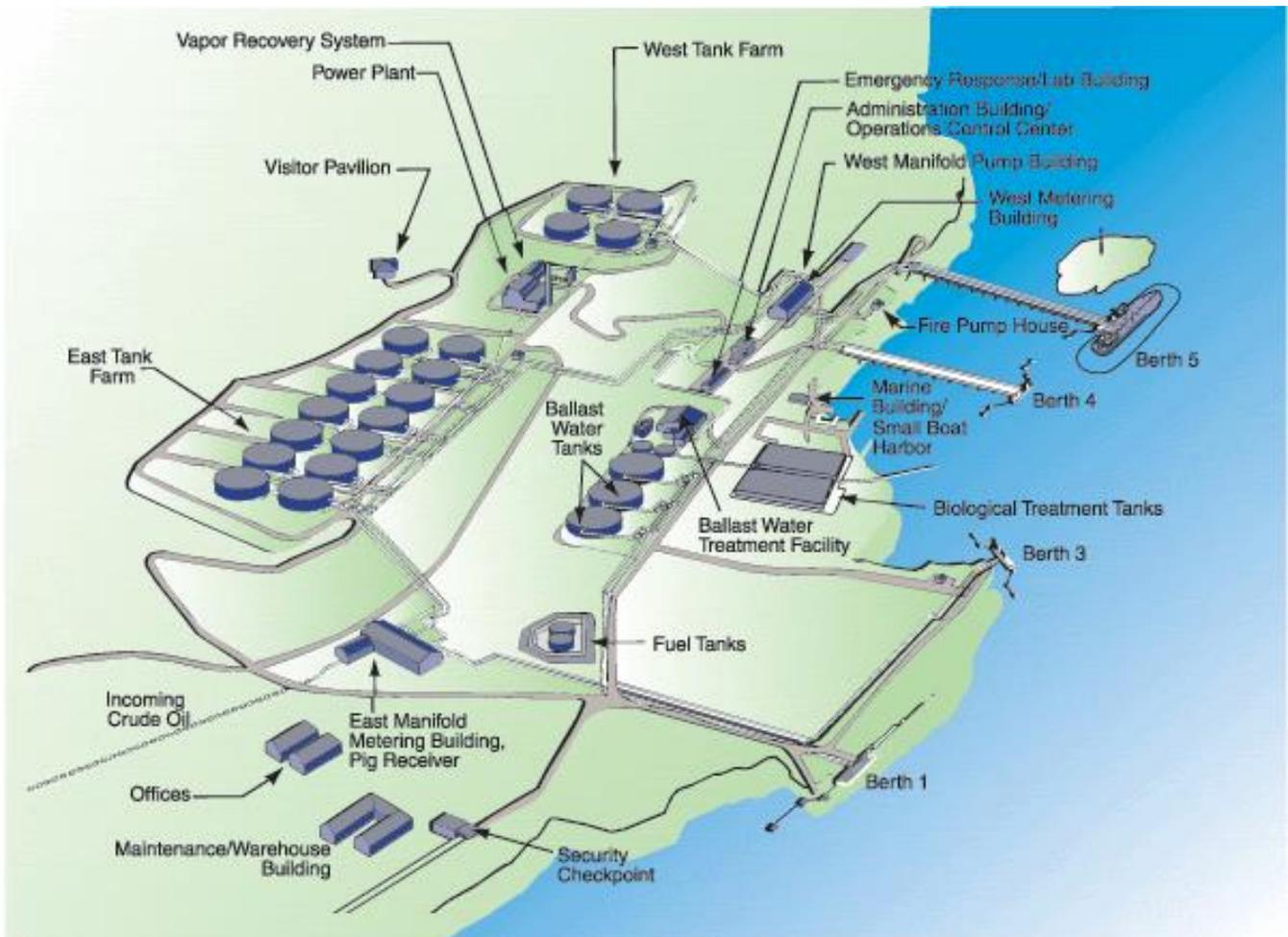
Supertankers:

Type: Water Cost: Am
 Control: Ty Speed: Ty
 Body: In Protection: Gd

Russian Orthodox Church grave site:
 The Alaska Native residents of Valdez, primarily Sugpiaq people, worshipped

at the St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church. By the time of the 1964 earthquake, the church site had been redeveloped. The grave markers were removed, but the bodies were never relocated. Today, the site of "Old Town" is overgrown with wetlands, and while there are a few historical markers where other buildings once stood, the church site is unmarked. In a Marvel game, this is a prime location for paranormal activity involving the restless spirits of those who were buried here. Native spirits could be summoned for assistance or information, angry at trespassers, or willing to bargain their help in exchange for being put to rest.

Thompson Pass: Valdez has only one road out of town: the Richardson Highway, which extends 368 miles north to just outside Fairbanks, connecting with other highways along the way. To drive literally anywhere from Valdez, one needs to go through Thompson Pass, a 2,600-foot-high gap in the Chugach Mountains. It is the snowiest place in Alaska, recording 500 inches of snow per year on average. In the winter of 1952–1953, 974.1 inches of snow fell—the most ever recorded in one season at one location in Alaska. It is also the most snow ever recorded in one season at one location anywhere in the fifty states. The pass also holds the Alaska record for the most snow in a single day: 62 inches (160 cm) fell on December 29, 1955. The pass is a





popular destination for tourists, and adventurers who enjoy heliskiing and snowboarding. The Alaska Department of Transportation does preemptive avalanche mitigation using howitzers (!) but nonetheless, at least a couple of times each year, the massive snowfall creates an avalanche that fills the highway with a 50-foot wall of snow. The snow displaced by an avalanche can weigh as much as a million tons and move at speeds up to 200 miles an hour! In addition to the physical hazard that presents, all that snow takes a while to clear – anywhere from two days up to two weeks – meaning that no one can drive in or out of town.

In a Marvel game, an avalanche can provide a good, short “search and rescue” mission for low- to medium-powered heroes, or perhaps act as a starting plot hook for an Alaskan adventure. Perhaps an avalanche victim is a preeminent politician, oil company executive, or famous athlete – or perhaps somewhere buried underneath the snow is a lost piece of alien technology. Or maybe someone in Valdez is in need of emergency supplies (food, medicine, technology, or whatever in-universe purpose you devise) and there’s blizzard weather that prevents the planes from flying, leaving the heroes racing against the clock.

