



MARKTOWN UPDATE

A publication of the Marktown Preservation Society

August 2006

Mittal Steel Supports County Seat Art Project

Beginning Memorial Day 2006, County Seats sculptures transformed into unique works of art have been displayed on street corners, in parks, in malls, and in front of businesses throughout the region.

The project involves the manufacture of recycled-content sculptures which have been painted by local artists using their own unique ideas and designs.

After Labor Day, the pieces will be auctioned at a grand gala event with 50% of the net profits going toward the creation of an arts scholarship fund and 50% returning to the participating communities to support future art, beautification and marketing projects.

THE PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT IS TO:

- Enrich Northwest Indiana through the arts.
- Promote regional cooperation through the arts.
- Promote tourism and economic development in Northwest Indiana through public art.
- Reveal the usefulness, durability, and beauty of recycled materials.
- Create a scholarship fund to support future artists in Northwest Indiana.
- Support future art, beautification, and marketing projects in participating communities.

WHY ART?

Public art exhibitions have become a civic and cultural phenomenon generating tourism and economic development. The exhibits help instill a sense of civic pride in local citizens as well as providing an entertaining and unique special event for locals and tourists alike.

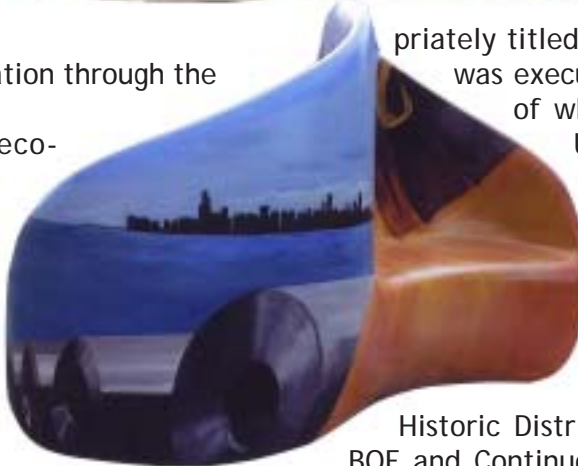
THE SCULPTURE

The sculpture is a blend of form and function—functional art. Each piece has two areas that serve as seats. The shape itself is a natural form

resembling a sand dune or a snowdrift. The shape has opposing sides and its sweeping curves move you around the entire piece.

You may ask "Why didn't you use an animal for the sculpture?" Well, this project takes the popular "community animal sculpture project" and adds several innovations:

- The use of an abstract form instead of a realistic object or creature
- The use of recycled materials instead of entirely virgin fiberglass
- Expanding the participation from one town to three counties.



WHAT ABOUT THE MITTAL STEEL BENCH? We were very pleased that Mittal Steel, the world's largest steel producing corporation agreed to participate in this outstanding project. Their County Seat is most appropriately titled *The Mark of Steel*. The work was executed by two local artists, both of whom are graduates of Indiana University Northwest and have Bachelor's of Fine Arts degrees.

One side of the bench depicts the Chicago skyline, a large ladle pouring molten steel and coils of finished steel. The opposite side of the bench depicts the Marktown

Historic District in the foreground and the BOF and Continuous Caster in the background. Special thanks must go to Mittal Steel for sponsoring the only East Chicago County Seat and for including the Marktown Historic District in the design. *The Mark of Steel* can be seen, sat upon or photographed at the East Chicago City Hall, adjacent to the Office of the Mayor.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS GREAT PROJECT: There are more than 80 County Seats in fifteen cities and town across Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties. To find out more about this project and the locations of the various County Seats, please visit their web site at:

www.countyseatproject.com

visit us on line at www.marktown.org

History On Wheels: Marktown's Model A Fords



1930 Model A Ford Tudor Sedan painted candy apple red with black trim. The photo was taken at Whiting Beach in about 1974.

Antique automobiles in Marktown are not new by any means. Early photos of Marktown clearly show that residents not only owned cars and trucks, but equally as important, they parked them on the sidewalks as we do today.

Exactly where my enthusiasm for antique autos came from may never be known but I have a feeling it came from the then popular television program *The Untouchables*. Watching people riding on running boards and playing cops & robbers may have played a part in it. I also remember back in 1967 when Marktown celebrated its 50th Anniversary that the McArdle boys had a 1934 antique car that they drove that year.

My first car at the age of 19 was a 1930 Model A Ford. While my parents were not very keen on my getting it, once it was on the road ninety days later my father, Robert E. Myers decided he had to have one also. He purchased a running gear from a member of the Highland Indiana Region Model A Ford Restorers Club. Harley Peschke of Hammond sold my father what would soon become the 1929 Model A Ford Woody that is still here today.

While the engine had been overhauled by Mr. Peschke, the rest of the frame needed to be completely rebuilt. My father spent endless hours chasing down parts, reading manuals and asking questions of many of the Model A Ford club members. Key to the questions and answer sessions were Arthur Pennington of Highland, and Ernie Smith of Munster. These two Model A enthusiasts were encyclopedias of knowledge and reference points for any Model A Ford owner.

Historic preservation saved this community from the wreckers ball in 1975 and should be the foundation for this neighborhood for generations to come.

I need to point out that I actually purchased my 1930 Model A while riding in the rumble seat of Art's 1932 Chevrolet Coupe. Art had loaned his car out to Jim Schurke of Griffith for a parade in Lansing. I managed to get a ride in the car for that parade and negotiated the deal to purchase my car from Jim.

Back to the Woody. Once dad had finished the running gear he obtained the plans for the wooden body. Since he owned a hardwood lumber business at that time he had an ample supply of quality hardwoods. Just to set the record straight, Ford Motor Company never made a wooden vehicle using American Black Walnut. They usually used ash and oak, but my dad wanted to do something special, so he used American Black Walnut.

It took him several years to restore the running gear and to get the body completed and mounted. In the process he needed some custom made hardware for the tailgate and rear bed. I remember driving the relatively completed Model A down to Pontiac



1929 Model A Ford running gear purchased more than 30 years ago by Robert E. Myers. Within two years after purchase it was being driven in local parades.

Illinois for a county fair where a local blacksmith actually forged the hardware in one weekend. It was quite an experience for all involved, including the blacksmith.

While the Marktown Model A Woody could use a fresh coat of varnish and some other work, little gives me more pleasure than sharing it with friends and neighbors. Give me a parade and a full tank of gas and I'm happy for the at least that day. (PM)



The Marktown Model A Ford Woody as it is today. While it is often parked on sidewalks in Marktown, driving it in local parades is always a fun way to spend the day. For more info on Model As try: www.modelaford.org

Marktowners At The Whiting Independence Day Parade



Recognize any of your present or former Marktown neighbors?

Moveable Feast Celebrates Historic Preservation



The Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana is the largest nonprofit state based organization in the United States dedicated to the restoration and preservation of historic properties. With offices across the entire state, including one in the Miller section of Gary, Indiana, they are an invaluable resource for individual preservationists, groups and government agencies interested in preserving various types of landmarks across this great state.

One of their programs is the regional Moveable Feast project. While last year's event was held in LaPorte, Indiana, this year's event was held in Crown Point, Indiana on Friday July 14th. Residents praise Crown Point's quiet hometown atmosphere as well as its proximity to the exciting metropolis of Chicago. As Mayor Dan Klein noted *"One out of every six families in Crown Point owe their employment to the City of Chicago to our north. They have made Crown Point their home of choice because of our historic downtown and our strong community pride and integrity."* He's right. What a truly wonderful piece of Americana.

But back to the Moveable Feast. The event began just south of the historic court house at the Old Homestead/Wellington A. Clark House (above left) which is one of the oldest surviving houses and civic buildings in Lake County. Built in 1847 when most houses and civic buildings were made of logs, the Clark house boasted attractive cedar clapboards. The modest hall-and-parlor style building housed Clark family descendents until 1959, when it was deeded to the City of Crown Point. The house is currently undergoing a major restoration and is open to visitors, usually by appointment. Appetizers and libations were

served on the front lawn where feast participants renewed old friendships and began new ones.

From here it was but a short walk to the Historic Lake County Court House. Affectionately referred to as "The Grand Old Lady" the main center portion of the building dates back to 1878. Obscured by a canopy of trees in the photo to the left, the building was scheduled for demolition decades ago, but the residents and city officials worked together to not only save this most important structure from Lake County's past, but more importantly to find modern day uses for the building. With shops in the lower level, a museum, banquet facility and offices on the first floor and the City Court and professional offices on the second floor, the Lake County Court House is and outstanding example of modern reuse of a historic governmental structure. As the participants for the Moveable Feast entered the first floor halls of the building they were greeted by a collection of photographs of some of Lake and Porter County's greatest



and most unique historic buildings. Along with the photos was a copy of the 24 page report titled "15 Most Historic Structures and District in East Chicago" which was released earlier this year. The exhibit and report were well received by the event participants.

After introductions and a review of the projects managed by Historic Landmarks this past year, an outstanding dinner was served. It should be noted that Erica Taylor, Director of the Calumet Office and Jamie Smith, administrative assistant in that office managed the entire event from the selection of the venue to the invitations and menu for the evening. Well done staff!



What we do for ourselves dies with us.

What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal!

Following dinner, Todd Zieger of the Northern Regional Office in South Bend made three special presentations to historic preservationists or historic preservation groups, organizations or companies. The first went to Geneva Proud, a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the restoration and preservation of historic properties in the town of Geneva, Indiana. They have been major advocates in the restoration and preservation of Geneva's historic past.

The second presentation was made to Gutwein Properties, Inc. for their outstanding restoration and preservation advocacy in relation to the commercial district in historic Monon, Indiana. They helped to save more than six commercial buildings in the Monon downtown. They have also worked with the local government agencies in the preservation and restoration of the Monon Civic Center.

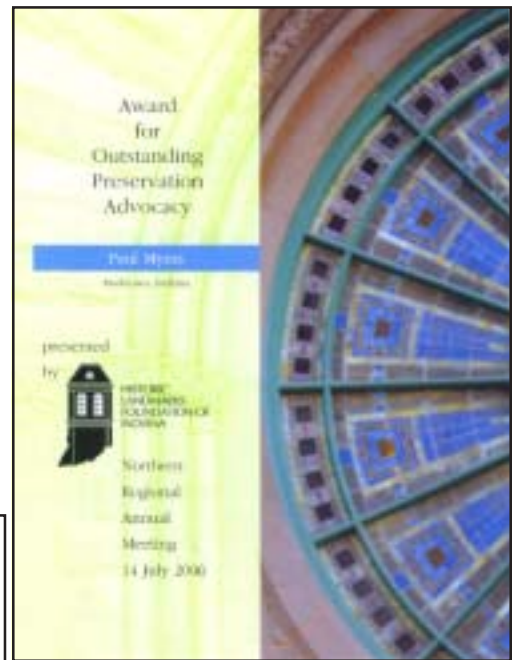
The third presentation was made to Marktown resident Paul Myers for his outstanding preservation advocacy over the years. While

Paul's historic preservation advocacy in the Marktown Historic District is quite well known, he is also well known for his work in preserving the works of architect



Howard Van Doren Shaw, and more recently on a broader spectrum in East Chicago and Northern Indiana.

Following the presentations the participants took a short walk just east of the historic courthouse to the 1902 Walter Allman residence. This classic Dutch Co-



lonial Revival home embodies the style of homes popular at the turn of the last century. Vacant for more than a decade, the Allman House faced demolition until Kitt and Romy Kabella bought the house last year and embarked on a major project to restore its handsome features. While the restoration is not complete, it



was an absolutely outstanding way to end a truly remarkable evening. Benefactors for the Crown Point Moveable Feast included the City of Crown Point, Michael &

Nada Karas, Lucrezia Ristorante, Tim & Meg Shelly. Sponsors included Bauer-Latoza Studio, Buddy & Pal's Place, Tim Heidbreder, Gilbert King, Jr., Attorney at Law, James D. Smith, AIA, and Sherry Nagel-Smith. Special thanks must also go to the City of East Chicago, Kitt & Romy Kabella, Lake County Historical Museum, Old Homestead Preservation Society, Inc., and the Old Sheriff's House Foundation Inc.

EDITORS NOTE: To view a PDF of the East Chicago Historic Preservation report, please visit either the City of East Chicago web page at www.eastchicago.com or the official Marktown Historic District web page at www.marktown.org. For additional information on the *Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana*, please visit their web site at: www.historiclandmarks.org

Please contact us via the internet at mrmarktown@sbcglobal.net

Marktown Gardens: Returning To Our Roots



**It's never too early to plan a garden for next year.
The earlier you start, the more enjoyment it will bring you and your family!**

Crime Watch Program Instituted In Marktown



Marktown residents met at the Marktown Community Center to discuss a neighborhood Crime Watch program and what they can do to improve things in Marktown.

"It's a neighborhood" said Javier Madrigal, "and more importantly it is our neighborhood and we want to clean it up. We want the crime and drugs stopped and we want it stopped now. Our question is what do we do to help make this happen?"

And so the first in a series of Marktown Crime Watch meetings began with over thirty Marktown residents in attendance. The East Chicago Police Department, under the direction of Chief Angelo Machuca, was represented by Lt. Lourdez Vega-Torrez and Acting Sergeant Jose Rivera for this most important of neighborhood meetings.

Citizen complaints ranged from littering to children running loose to gang and drug activities. Many were concerned about the lack of a viable police presence in the neighborhood. Lt. Vega-Torrez explained that there is an understaffing at the patrol division left over from the prior administration and that work is being done to rectify that problem.

From a crime watch stand point it was noted by Lt. Torres-Vega a number of years ago, the Marktown Historic District had a patrol unit assigned to us, and that the only time he was to leave Marktown is if he were called to another area for backup or other problems. As the problems at that time declined, so to declined the need for that type of law

enforcement presence in Marktown. It was noted that unlike several other sectors of East Chicago, Marktown has experienced a decrease in criminal activity. While there have been a number of vandalism cases in our neighborhood, it appears that the only true gang problems are from the juvenile gang wannabees in Marktown

It was noted that the parents need to get involved in the lives of their children. Letting them run loose all day and night leads to problems in any community. Residents are encouraged to get involved in the active policing of our neighborhood and to report any incident that merits investigation. In order to get increased police patrols we will need to report the problems to the police department immediately.

Following the meeting, Precinct Committeeman Javier Madrigal and 5th District Councilman Robert

Garcia met with the newly appointed Parks Superintendent Kenny Monroe and discussed a number of very important Marktown Park improvement initiatives. Among them was the restoration of the parks sprinkler system for the Center Park, the additional planting of trees and shrubs in accordance to the 1984 parks plan, and the possibility of a water spray park at some point in the future. Get involved. Help make a positive change in Marktown!



Acting Sergeant Jose Rivera, Javier Madrigal, Lt. Lourdez Vega-Torrez and Councilman Robert Garcia pose for a quick photo following a most successful Crime Watch meeting in the Marktown Historic District.



Javier Madrigal (center) points out some of the problems to Parks Superintendent Ken Monroe and 5th District Councilman Robert Garcia following the meeting.

**With TEAMWORK all things truly are possible.
You don't have to be elected to be a leader in a community.**

Child Bitten By Pit Bull In Marktown

In the early part of July of this year, a young pre-school child was bitten by a neighbor's Pit Bull in Marktown. While the bite was not severe, it was bad enough to draw blood and the attention of both families involved. With this in mind we thought it appropriate to provide all Marktown Update readers with a synopsis of **East Chicago Ordinances No. 0-02-0018** passed in 2002 and **No. 3454** passed in 1987.

No. 3454 defines the term "Pit Bull" as including all American Pit Bull Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers and all Pit Bull mixes where another breed of dog is intermixed with a Pit Bull. It goes on to amend the fine for a violation of the ordinance to \$2,500.00 plus the cost of prosecution if convicted.

Section 5-41. Liability insurance is required to be maintained by owners of Pit Bulls. In order to protect the public from the severe harm and injury which is likely to result from a Pit Bull attack, every owner of a Pit Bull shall at all times that he/she owns the dog, maintain in full force and effect a liability insurance policy of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00).

Section 5-42. Confinement of Pit Bulls.

(a) ...Pit Bulls must at all time be securely confined indoors, or confined in a securely and totally enclosed or locked pen, with either a top or with sides six (6) feet high.

PCB Study To Take Place In E.C. & Marktown

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs): PCBs are mixtures of man-made chemicals with similar chemical structures. PCBs can range from oily liquids to waxy solids. Due to their nonflammability, chemical stability, high boiling point and electrical insulating properties, PCBs were used in hundreds of industrial and commercial applications including electrical, heat transfer, and hydraulic equipment; as plasticizers in paints, plastics and rubber products; in pigments, dyes and carbonless copy paper and many other applications. More than 1.5 billion pounds of PCBs were manufactured in the United States prior to cessation of production in 1977.

Concern over the toxicity and persistence (chemical stability) in the environment of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) led Congress in 1976 to enact Section 6(e) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) that included among other things, prohibitions on the manufacture, processing, and distribution in commerce of PCBs. Thus, TSCA legislated true "cradle to grave" (i.e., from manufacture to disposal) management of PCBs in the United States.

The University of Iowa will be conducting research in reference to how PCBs move from their present sources

(b) At any time that a Pit Bull is not confined (as noted above) the dog shall be muzzled in such a manner as to prevent it from biting or injuring any person or animal, and kept on a leash with the owner or custodian in attendance.

Section 5-43. Registration of Pit Bulls.

(a) Pit Bulls shall be registered with the City Controller's Office. That registration shall include the name, address and telephone number of the dog's owner. It must also include a complete identification of the dog including the dog's sex, color, and any other distinguishing physical characteristics; proof of insurance and a signed affidavit indicating the owner's knowledge of and agreement to abide by, the requirements of this ordinance.

(b) Newly acquired Pit Bulls shall be registered with the City Controller's Office no later than seventy-two hours after acquisition.

Note: We went on line and entered "dog liability insurance" and found one agency who handles the mandatory insurance at the \$1,000,000.00 level. The annual cost is \$1,735.00. You can however increase your homeowner's or renters liability insurance to the \$1,000,000.00 mandatory level for about \$25.00 per year, provided your dog has not previously bitten anyone.

into the human body. The program's overall theme is the consequences of atmospheric sources and exposures to semi-volatile PCBs, and it deals with volatilization, transport and exposure of lower halogenated PCB, especially those that are associated with contaminated waters, former industrial sites, other atmospheric sources, and the consequences of exposure to them.

The multi-year survey will include 8th grade students and their mothers. The participants will be primarily from East Chicago and especially the Marktown Historic District and New Addition area. Once the University of Iowa develops a list of potential participants with assistance from the local school officials, they will contact the families by mail. They will receive a letter explaining the study and inviting them to participate. A postcard will be included in the mailing so families who do not wish to participate can return the postcard and be crossed off the list.

This is a very important project that we hope all of the residents in East Chicago will want to participate in. It should be noted however, that the number of participants is very limited. For further information on PCBs please visit the following web site: www.epa.gov/opptintr/pcb/

Marktown Update is published each month by the **Marktown Preservation Society, Inc. (MPS)** from their office at the residence of Paul A. Myers. It is distributed free of charge to all of the residents of Marktown. It is also distributed to more than 400 non residents via the U.S. Mail. An index to all of the past issues, as well as PDF electronic copies of each issue are available at the official

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