



MARKTOWN UPDATE

A publication of the Marktown Preservation Society

December 2003

Season's Greetings From Marktown

December is upon us, Christmas will soon be here and the year is about to draw to a close. With the end of the year in sight it is time to not only reflect upon what we have accomplished this past year, but more importantly, to begin planning for 2004.

This past year has been absolutely outstanding for the residents of the Marktown Historic District. Oak Avenue was completed and the plans for Spruce Avenue were placed upon the drawing board.

The plans for the New Marktown Community Center were unveiled for all to see in the very first issue of Marktown Update just a year ago. The project has since gone out to bid and the East Chicago Parks and Recreation Board will soon announce the name of the company who will be awarded the project.

Our Marktown Parks have NEVER LOOKED BETTER and the new tutoring and volunteer program implemented this past year is off and running. There is a renewed vision not only for the Marktown Historic District, but more importantly for all of East Chicago and the greater Calumet area.

As I mentioned, Marktown Update began just twelve issues, just twelve months ago. While many have no idea as to why we began this journey, some have speculated as to our motives. Quite simply, there are no ulterior motives. Marktown Update is provided to give our neighbors and our friends positive answers to their questions and solutions to the problems that face Marktown and other areas of this great city.

Marktown Update has lived up to its name. We have given you information that has helped us to make a positive difference in this neighborhood. We have given new hope to a neighborhood that was and still is in distress. More importantly than just pointing out the problems, we have attempted to provide viable solutions to

many of the problems at hand.

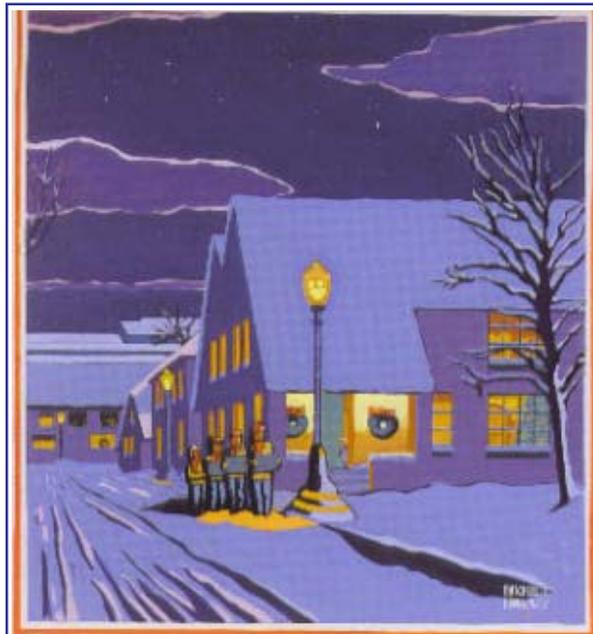
As 2003 draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to Mr. Dan McArdle who grew up in our neighborhood and who has never forgotten the Marktown Historic District. Dan or "Big Dan" as he is often called, has funded the printing of Marktown Update this past year. Without his most generous funding of this project, we would not be in print one year later. We sincerely thank him for funding Marktown Update and for remembering his roots.

Just why did we begin this journey? One of the major reasons was our new community center. You see, some in this neighborhood wanted to use the new center to their own political purposes. They wanted to go door to door and explain to each of you what THEY had done for this community. That would not have been fair to all of our neighbors, or more importantly, to those who actually made this project a reality. Hence, the first issue of Marktown Update.

What is next? Well, several things. First and foremost we will continue to issue Marktown Update each and every month. It will be hand delivered to ALL Marktown residents and mailed to those who have requested it. Secondly, at popular request, we will be once again holding monthly meetings of the Committee for a Better, Cleaner and Safer Marktown

Historic District. Why are we starting the meetings again? Because of the twenty or more residents of this community that have personally asked us to do so. They want to participate in the process of making the Marktown Historic District a better, cleaner and safer place to live and to raise a family.

Until January, we sincerely hope that each and every one of our residents has a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May we all enter 2004 with a renewed spirit, a new vision for Marktown, and the ability to put our differences aside for the benefit of ALL.



Local Resident Represents Preservation at House of Representatives Way & Means Hearing

Speaking before legislative bodies and organizations wasn't exactly new for Marktown resident and historian Paul Myers. A number of years ago when he was director of Safety, Health and Medicine for the Uniroyal Plastics Corporation he appeared before a Senate subcommittee on Capital Hill in Washington, D.C. But as he recently said *"That was business. I was a hired professional and was there to represent a corporate entity and the plastics industry. Appearing before the prestigious Indiana House of Representatives Ways & Means Committee on the subject of Historic Preservation, and to do so as the Director of Cultural Affairs and Historic Preservation for the city of East Chicago is a very personal thing for me. I was ecstatic when I was asked to speak and I looked forward to representing the needs of not only the historic properties here in East Chicago, but more importantly of attempting to make a positive change in the tax law for all of Indiana."*

Thursday, October 6th found Paul driving to the Tippecanoe County Court House in historic downtown Lafayette, Indiana for a 1 PM special session of the Ways & Means Committee. While East Chicago's Representative John Aguilera is a member of that committee, he was unfortunately not present for the meeting. As Paul was the first to sign in for the public comment and presentation portion of the meeting, he was first up after the one hour opening introductions of the committee and the status report from Beth Henkel, the Director of the Department of Local Government Finance (the oversight body for the state wide reassessment of properties).

Realizing that he would have between 3-5 minutes to make his initial point Paul presented the following argument to the Committee:

"Chairman Crawford and distinguished members of the Committee - In Indianapolis, Evansville, Madison, South Bend and in nearly every city, town and county in the great State of Indiana, and most especially in Lake County and the City of East Chicago, people who live in historic districts and older neighborhoods saw their tax bills double, triple and

even quadruple. Some owners say that they may not be able to afford living in the homes that they have restored. Others despair of attracting people to fix up and restore neighboring homes given the new tax burdens.

"I am here today to encourage the House Ways & Means Committee to support a partial property tax exemption, which would function as a deduction from the assessed value, for historic properties here in Indiana. I would encourage you to consider a 5% exemption for properties listed in the Indiana Register of Historic Places. A 10% exemption for properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and a 15% exemption for properties in locally designated districts and state-regulated historic areas.

"I most respectfully submit that the exemptions be a local option, enabled by a change in the law at the state level. To receive the deduction, all owners would have to be current in the property taxes and have no building code violations on their property.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I know that my time is limited and with your permission I will revise and extend my comments and provide them to you for the record within five working days. I most sincerely hope that you and your staff will consider both my oral and written argument in reference to this most important and historic legislation and that you will recommend adoption by the House of Representatives in

this next session. Are there any questions that you have for me at this time?"

Paul was somewhat surprised when the Chairman of the Committee, Representative Crawford from Indianapolis directed several questions to him in reference to the impact that this legislation would have on other taxpayers. Paul noted that there are currently approximately six property tax exemptions on the books which shift the tax burden to other individuals and that the details of the information that he requested in reference to this proposal would be provided in his revised and extended remarks. For a copy of Paul's entire presentation, please feel free in contacting him directly at (219) 397-2239.



Need to e-mail us? You can contact Paul at pmyers@eastchicago.com

The Little House That Saved Marktown

It is a simple little house and garage. Unimposing and not one of the original homes designed by Chicago architect Howard Van Doren Shaw in 1917. But it is the only house that, clear back over fifty years ago, helped to save what is now known as the Marktown Historic District from the wrecker's ball.

The year was 1952 and Marktown had just been sold to the individual residents of the community a few years earlier. There were no rental properties and absolutely no homes were available for sale. Chester and Edna Williams had but one daughter who had married Robert Myers. They had one son, Robert Ray, but were expecting another child.

The young couple lived in an apartment above Matchen Florist located in the 3400 block of Michigan Avenue, just across from the Indiana Theater. Mr. & Mrs. Williams wanted their family a bit closer, so Chet and his fellow masons from Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company built a quaint little house and garage virtually in the front yard of the Williams home at 405 Spring Street.

All was well until 1954 when YS&T petitioned the City of East Chicago for the right to zone Marktown and the area across from Pine Avenue as "industrial" so they could not only build their No. 2 Tin mill, but raze Marktown in the process.

Even though Chester and Edna Williams both worked for YS&T, they attended the Common Council meetings, the Planning Commission meetings and helped to organize the residents of Marktown, all of which were employed by the

mill at that time, to preserve their neighborhood.

The result of their efforts was three fold. **First:** Marktown was removed from the zoning proposal, which as we noted, prevented our neighborhood from being razed (torn down). **Second:** The 200 foot wide Pine Avenue Park was negotiated into the deal. You see, until 1955, and the construction of the No. 2 Tin Mill, the area west of Pine Avenue was woodlands and an area called Little Lakes. There was also a set of 40 garages, identical to those that had been across the street from the community center located at Pine Avenue and Riley Road. **Third:** The location of the Tin Mill, the location of rail tracks that would serve

the mill and the employees parking lots were all negotiated by the Williams family and the residents of Marktown.

You don't have to take our word for this. If you stop by the East Chicago Room of the E.C. Public Library on Columbus Drive, you can review a book titled *Marktown In Print*. There, on pages 41 through 50 you will find the zoning proposal and the

announcement of the park plans and eventual park dedication.

About Marktown in Print: This is one of two custom printed and hand bound books that detail the history of the Marktown Historic District. The 400+ page book is custom bound by Paul Myers at the 402 Liberty Street property. The other book/archive titled **Marktown on the Party Line** is printed and custom bound by Paul. Both are available at the East Chicago Public Library or can be purchased from the Marktown Preservation Society (\$60.00 each).



402 Liberty Street for years was referred to as "the little green house on the corner." Following the 2002 restoration of the house and garage it is now used as a guest house and private artist studio by Marktown resident Paul Myers. Paul is nationally recognized as an artist working in the field of Japanese calligraphy and is a national award winning book artist/binder.

The printing of this newsletter was made possible through the generosity of Mr. Dan McArdle.

MARKTOWN BY DESIGN... *The Continuing Story of the Marktown Historic District* by Paul A. Myers

The first article in reference to the Mark Town Site was published in the **Iron Trade Review** on March 17, 1917. Titled: **Model City Will be Started by Mark Mfg. Co., at East Chicago, Indiana** it reads...

"Chicago, Sept. 8 -- A Model city to accommodate 8000 employees is being laid out and construction started at East Chicago, Indiana, by the Mark Mfg. Co., which is erecting a large steel plant at the Indiana Harbor. A site containing 190 acres has been bought and plans are being prepared by Howard Shaw, architect, to include the best features of similar housing efforts in other industrial communities. A park, 280 X 300 feet, will form the central square with business structures surrounding it. Street car lines from East Chicago and Whiting to Indiana Harbor will traverse the two principal streets. Work has been started on 200 modern houses of four to seven rooms, costing \$2500 to \$4000 each. They are of tile and of a slow burning type.

"Lots are 48 X 50 feet, giving garden space beside each house. Houses will be built at the lot line with a public lawn between the houses and the sidewalk and street. Boarding houses and club houses for unmarried men will be provided. A first class school will be established. A recreation building for general use will be built. One end of the tract has been reserved for higher paid officials where more pretentious homes will be built.

"A sale plan has been de-

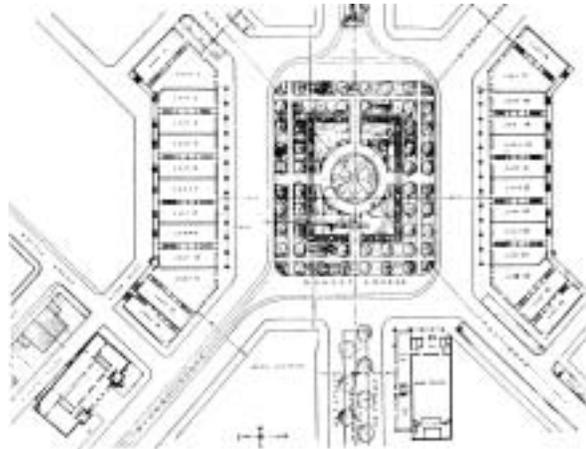
vised by which employees may buy their home over a period of five years. At the end of that time, if they remain in the employ of the company a generous rebate on the price will be given as a bonus. Space is provided for about 800 persons on this tract. An initial investment of \$1,000,000 will be made in the buildings."

And so the first of literally hundreds of newspaper article in reference to what is now the Marktown Historic District was published. But what of the actual plan for the Mark Town Site.

The plan for Marktown was developed under with the English Garden City concepts in mind. It required that the homes be well built and of sturdy, fireproof construction. That while all of the homes would not be identical in design, that the design of each home and secondary buildings be compatible with the other properties in the neighborhood. The concept of vistas was important so that when a person was walking through the neighborhood they would look upon a pleasing structure at the end of each

street as opposed to an open or industrialized area. Keeping this in mind, Mr. Shaw also included a berm at the perimeter of the parks so as to block the view of the oil refinery and steel mills that lay just beyond the boundaries of the neighborhood.

As noted, the houses were set on the lot line and each home had a covered and open front porch. This was integral in the design as the concept of being able to speak with your neighbors as they passed by was of paramount importance at the time. In the Architectural Review article printed in November 1918, it was noted that the houses were to be



Howard Shaw's concept for the Mark Town Site included a Market Square area designed after his work in Lake Forest, Illinois just two years earlier. If completed, the Marktown's Market Square would have been one of the greatest architectural centers in North America. Unfortunately only one building was built.



Left: Howard Shaw's original plan for the Market Square area of Mark Town Site was to include more than twenty shops, all of which had luxury apartments on the second floor. The area also included a recreation center, movie theater, bank and a post office. Shown here is one of the missing elements of the Market Square area which included a tower very similar to the one built in Lake Forest, Ill.

Marktown Update is now available in color on the official East Chicago website at www.eastchicago.com Look for "Other Attractions" and then click of the bottom of the Marktown section!

finished with a stucco exterior, each painted in a pastel color with a coordinated darker trim scheme.

The overall design of the Mark Town Site included more than thirty sections of housing and businesses. Due to financial problems incurred by the Mark Manufacturing Co. during World War I, only four of the thirty sections was ever completed. The original designs for Marktown included a Market Square with approximately 28 separate store units, each having a luxury or deluxe apartment on the second floor. The center of the square had a recessed garden area complete with a fountain. This area was removed in 1936 due to traffic problems.

Also included in the original plan was a movie theater, a recreation building, post office a major recreational park complete with tennis courts and a club house and both elementary and high school to be built on the site. The Little Lake that had once graced the undeveloped prairie to the west of Marktown was to be developed as a part of the park system that Mr. Shaw and Chicago landscape architect Jens Jensen had designed.

Another of the Garden City concepts was that there be no alleys. Houses were to be set separate from each other so that the rear windows of one home would look out onto the garden area of the house on the next street. With open porches and the back yard of one house looking out onto the front yard of the adjacent home, there was a built in security system that was integral to the overall design concept.

From a fencing and yard enclosure standpoint, Mr. Shaw had designed what was referred to

at the time as a hammered concrete English garden wall. While only two of these original exterior fences were constructed, they both still exist on the 500 block of Lilac Street. The interior areas of the yards were to have been divided off in areas with a 32" wire fencing, much lighter in gauge than the current steel fences used today.

From the 1918 Architectural Review we find *"The houses are generally of two stories in height, with cellar and in all cases, an attic. All the houses have running water, toilet with bath, gas and electricity, hot air heat, set wash tubs in the kitchen and sewer connection."* It should be noted here that these were considered novelties and not standard features at the time of construction. *"The houses have tile walls which will be covered with various tints of cement wash to give variety, color and gaiety."*

"While the houses are located on a uniform building line, generally about forty feet apart and cover from thirty-five to forty percent of the lot, they are nevertheless disposed upon a somewhat unusual pattern of arrangement. The lots are in most cases, square, and the buildings are staggered on each block, on opposite sides of the street, so that windows of houses look out onto the gardens of their neighbors, rather than into their windows or the blank walls of adjacent buildings."

"The streets are inmost cases thirty-two feet wide with sixteen-foot roadways, so that the houses are in proper scale and the whole effect is very similar to the streets of English villages, or the old continental towns such as Prague. The architect has thus avoided a feature unfortunately characteristic

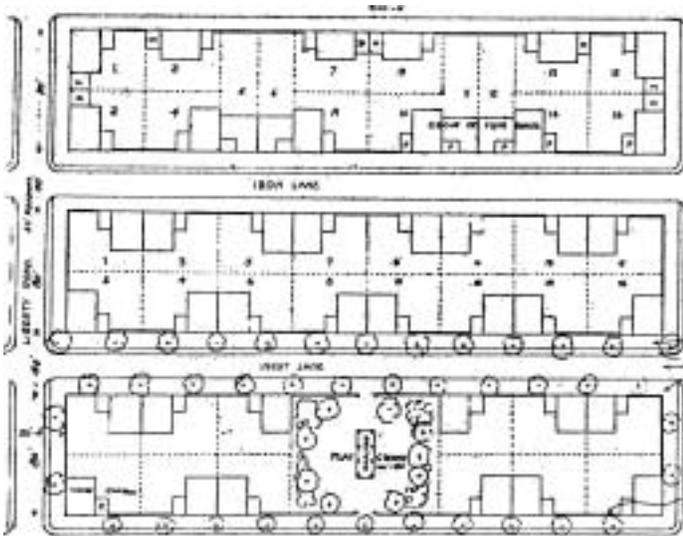


The original plan for what was then known as the Mark Town Site included more than 30 sections of architecturally compatible homes, a shopping district, tree lined parkways, and a major park complex which was to include the development of an existing lake. Only four of the 30 sections were ever completed.

Right: *Howard Shaw's original front elevation of the Marktown Recreation Center which was designed for the corner of Spring Street and Dickey Rd. It is easy to see where the concept for the New Marktown Community Center came from when compared to this.*



If you would like to obtain back issues of Marktown Update, or would like additional information in reference to the Marktown Historic District contact Paul Myers at (219) 397-2239.



BLOCK C

Showing Motor Rooms "M" in connection with a larger house also showing flexibility of the plan for single houses or groups, forming effective garden courts.

BLOCK A

80' X 400' - 16 lots each 50' by 40' deep. 16 - 4, 5, 7 or 7 room houses. This plan works out to 15 houses to the acre. 10'0" parking - 4' concrete walk and 16' 0" concrete roadway.

BLOCK A

Every third block has a 100' X 80" playground for young children and mothers of the immediate neighborhood. Heavy lines: Concrete walls 3'-6" high on street fronts. Dotted Lines: wire fences dividing lots.

General Principles:

Broad shallow lots.

Staggered arrangement of houses.

Width of street proportionate to size of buildings.

No alleys.

Coal may be shoveled into every basement from the street.

All windows of every house look into the gardens instead of their neighbors windows.

Author's Note:

All of the illustrations contained in this article, along with the technical information in reference to the original plan for what is now known as the Marktown Historic District comes directly from the November 1918 issue of **The Architectural Review** and from the April 1919 issue of **Western Architect**. Copies of the articles can be found in **Marktown In Print**. (Reprinted by permission)

of many of our American town-planning developments, where small four, five and six-room houses are on broad streets wide enough for the Chicago Loop District, with an inescapable loss of proportion and scale."

Exactly where did Mr. Shaw come up with the exterior design for the Marktown homes? For the answer to this we look to Mr. Shaw's own Lake Forest home that he designed in 1898. The home is called Ragdale which is pictured atop the next page.

This outstanding English Tudor Revival home originally sat on more than five times as much acreage as what Marktown was built upon. It is a very impressive 5,000 square foot home that was considered to be only a summer cottage for the Shaw family. The acreage behind the home is thought to

be some of the most pristine natural and untouched prairie in all of Illinois.

The second photo is that of a Marktown Quad. A quad building consists of four homes. A four-room home on each end and a pair of five-room homes in the center. The end units set upon a 40' (frontage) by 38' deep lot. The center units have a 20' frontage and span to the lot line on the back side of the block. It is easy to see the similarities between Mr. Shaw's Ragdale and the Marktown Quad.

So, where did the rest of the Marktown's Exterior elevations come from? If you take out the center section of the Marktown Quad and move the end units together, you have the four-room duplex. The four-room duplex comes in three roof elevations.

If you expand the four-room floor plan and move the front door back to the street side of the

Marktown's Market Square area was to include more than 20 shops and apartments, a bank, movie theater and post office. Unfortunately, only four were ever constructed.



front porch, you have the six room duplex, again with three roof elevations.

If you take the center section of the Marktown Quad, you have the basic design for the seven-room duplex which comes complete with the second floor flower box rails just like Mr. Shaw's own Ragdale. It should be noted here that the plans referred to the seven-room duplex as an *in-house boarding residence* in which the host family would utilize the first floor bedroom and have between nine and twelve boarders utilize the second floor bedrooms. While this was his original intent, it is not thought to have ever been carried out after construction.

The only original Marktown Houses that are not based upon Mr. Shaw's Ragdale are the six room single cottages on Park Street and at scattered sites throughout the neighborhood. They are based upon the 1902 nationally award winning designs by Mr. Robert Work, a draughtsman working for Mr. Shaw at the time. The six-room single cottage also comes with two roof elevations and a left or right side living room.

Disbursement of Construction

- 3 Commercial Buildings
 - boarding house (hotel)
 - garage complex (now the bar)
 - 4 unit store building
- Residential Units
 - Quad Units - 8 Buildings
 - 16 - four-room houses &



*Top: Howard Shaw's Ragdale
Center: Marktown Quad
Illustrations: Three exterior designs of the six room Marktown duplex. At the top is the standard hip roof, in the center is what is referred to as the street-gable roof and at the bottom is the yard-gable roof. The four room duplex was also built with the same three roof elevations.*

- 16 - five-room houses
- Seven-room duplex
 - 9 buildings - 18 homes
- Six-room single cottages
 - 5 hip roof with left LR
 - 10 gable roof with left LR
 - 3 gable roof with right LR
 - 18 cottages total
- Six-room duplex - 44 buildings
 - 14 street gable roofs
 - 11 yard gable roofs
 - 19 hip roofs
 - 88 separate homes
- Four-room duplex - 16 buildings
 - 9 street gable roofs
 - 3 yard gable roofs
 - 3 hip roofs
 - 32 separate homes

One of the interesting concepts in reference to the design of the Marktown Historic District is that with only five different floor plans, Mr. Shaw was able to change the exterior elevation, and particularly the roof line of three of the plans, so that they no longer appeared to be the same. One of the best places to note the variety of roof designs in by examining the homes on the north side of Oak Avenue.

In Ken Schoon's new book **Calumet Beginnings** he notes: "Marktown is still a quiet residential island surrounded by heavy industry. The community may be unique in that every one of the original buildings still stands. In 1975 Marktown was placed on the National Register of Historic Places."



Let's work together to make Marktown a better, cleaner and safer place to live and to raise a family!

Christmas Cards, Posters and Other Items Available!

Poster and Christmas Card: Several years ago, Mitchell Markvovitz, the founding artist and art director for the new series of South Shore posters came to Marktown with sketch pad and camera in hand. No one, not even Paul Myers, knew he was going to do a poster of Marktown until it was released.

Today, the posters are still in circulation and the Marktown Preservation Society has had the image reprinted as seasonal greeting cards. ***If anyone currently living in the Marktown Historic District would like a free poster, just give Paul Myers a call at 397-2239 and he will see to it that one is provided to you free of charge.*** Christmas cards are also available at a reduced price to Marktown residents. It is our way of saying thank you for letting us help to make the Marktown Historic District a cleaner, better and safer place to live and to raise a family. We thank you for your readership and support.

If you don't live in the Marktown Historic District and would like a poster, they are available at a reduced price of \$15.00 (\$30.00 retail) plus shipping if applicable/

Ripley's Post Cards. Just in for the holiday season, these outstanding 4" X 6" professionally printed black and white post cards are available at \$.25 each. Share our **Ripely's Believe It or Not** drawing with friends and family.

Marktown Christmas Ornaments. A very limited number of 3" glass Marktown ornaments are still available. These classic ornaments come packaged and are ready to be used as gifts or are perfect for your own Christmas tree this holiday season.

Checks should be made payable to the Marktown Preservation Society. For availability and sale information call Paul at (219) 397-2239.

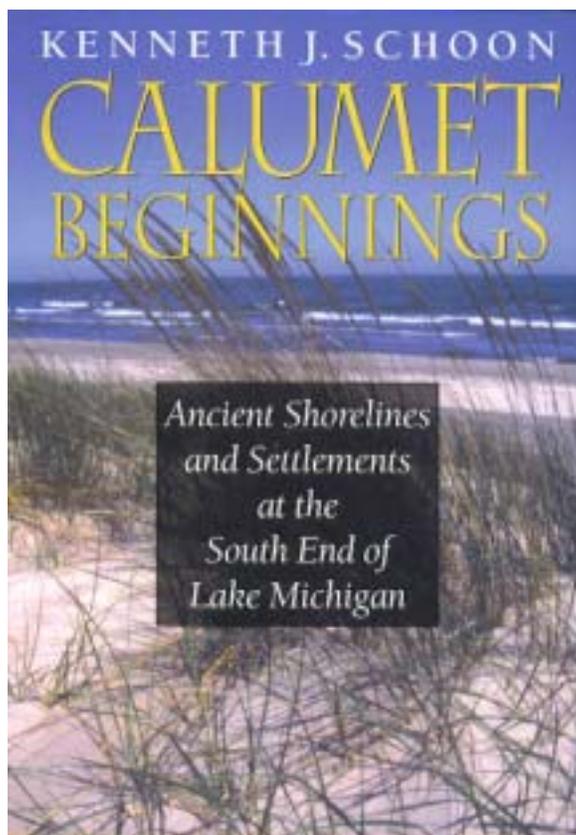


Another Book That Includes Marktown!

Kenneth J. Schoon, professor of education at IU Northwest in Gary and a former educator from Block Junior High and Central High Schools here in East Chicago, has recently authored a new book titled ***Calumet Beginnings: Ancient Shorelines and Settlements at the South End of Lake Michigan.*** The book was released in late October in hardcover by Indiana University Press and is currently available at local bookstores for \$24.95.

The book is divided into three sections: ***The Physical Setting*** which deals with the topographical nature of the area; ***The Human Touch*** which explores the greater Calumet Area from the time of the early Native American settlements through the early industrial age, and ***Community Beginnings*** which explores the histories of the various cities, towns and neighborhoods that comprise the greater Calumet Region.

Yes, included in the book is a short section on our own Marktown Historic District and a great photograph of the Mark Hotel back in about 1920. While you won't get a detailed history of Marktown or East Chicago from the book, the reader will acquire a much broader understanding of the Calumet Region and Marktown's historical significance within that context. It is a remarkable book and is well worth the purchase price.



WHERE THERE IS NO VISION... THE PEOPLE PARISH!

CAR STEREOS AND SCREECHING TIRES...

The Reasons Behind the Noise!

Have you ever wondered why young people in this and other neighborhoods have really, really loud stereos in their cars? Have you ever wondered why some of the young people peel out making that terrible noise and leave their tire tracks on our streets? I hope that everyone realizes that these problems are not just here in Marktown, but are prevalent across this nation.

For the answer to these questions and many other we have turned to the professionals who are helping us to put together a comprehensive plan for the restoration of the Marktown Historic District. You see, while doing the research on the demographics of Marktown, we found some interesting information in relation to the young people who have been identified with the loud stereos and screeching tires. Here is what we found.

In every case, the young people with the loud car stereos and screeching tires are seeking attention. In every case, they have do nothing, go no where jobs. They haven't gone to college and in many cases they have not finished high school. While those who have gone on to bigger and better things can stand around on corners with the bragging rights of a decent job and job title, the young people with the stereos have only one thing in life: their car and the stereo.

They don't own a home and in most cases they live with a single parent, usually their mother, who is busy trying to make a living to keep the family together. What little money the young man has goes into his car, for the car becomes his only identity. It is his ultra ego. He becomes like the male peacock strutting around the field attempting to attract a mate.

It is as if they say *"Look at ME. I'M important. I'm someone you need to notice."* As we said, the problem is not just here in Marktown. It exists across the entire nation. This past summer during the Puerto Rican Day Parade there were several cars in the parade that went down the entire route screeching their tires. They wanted everyone to know that they had the big fast car. Unfortunately, when the parade was over, the tire marks still lined the parade route and have since been the subject of repeat performances by young people on the streets of the former parade route .

The problem in Marktown is compounded by

the fact that our homes are not only made of stucco off of which the noise bounces from house to house, but the homes are also only 32 feet apart which increases the echo problem.

I don't know of anyone who wants to hear either the loud stereos or the screeching tires. I also don't think that any of the young people that repeatedly do this have ever thought of what people think of them for doing it. Are they under the impression that people are setting in their homes saying *"Oh there goes that Jose and his stereo. I wonder what the name of that song was?"* Or *"Well it is nice to see he can afford a great car and new car tires every few weeks. I hope he dates my daughter!"* Or even better, *"While it is a shame he never finished high school, isn't it nice that he found a hobby. You know, I just can't imagine what I would do if they didn't wake me up at two in the morning with their screeching tires and loud stereo. It just wouldn't be the same without all of that noise."*

OK. We have defined the problem, now what about the solution? We need to work together to resolve this. To begin, the young men that are doing this in Marktown live HERE. They are not coming in from Whiting, or Indiana Harbor or Munster to wake us up. They are our neighbors sons. The first step is to identify the car and the driver. Make it a point of looking out of your window and see just who it is.

You don't have to go confront them when they do it. But the next time you see the car go by, make it a point of stopping the person and explain to them that we really don't need to hear this in Marktown. If it happens again, stop them again and try to reason with them.

OK. What do you do if they keep doing it? Well, what do you think? How about finding out who they are and going to speak with their parents. Explain to the parents that this type of activity just isn't needed in Marktown or anywhere else.

And if that fails? Well, we suggest that you resort to filing a police report and be willing to take the issue before the city judge. I know that appears to be extreme, but if nothing else works, that may be our only chance for some peace and quiet. Lets WORK TOGETHER to make the Marktown Historic District a cleaner, better, safer and quieter neighborhood in which to live and to raise a family.

What is a Precinct Committee Person? What Some Don't Want You To Know!

You know, just about every article that we include in an issue of Marktown Update has a reason for being there. We have limited space for items and we try to bring you positive information about our community. We also try to bring you information on topics that you are interested in.

There is probably more misunderstanding in reference to the position of Precinct Committeeman than anyone can imagine. To begin with, did you know that there are actually two precinct committee persons in Marktown and in virtually every other precinct in East Chicago? That's right. You have a Democratic Precinct Committeeman and a Republican Precinct Committeeman. Barbara Perez is the Democrat and Jack Pranaitis from Prospect Street is the Republican. Wow, who would have thought that there were two of them?

Did you know that the Precinct Committeeman is not an elected official or representative? While many of us have know this for quite sometime, it appears that our Democratic Precinct Committee person has been telling people *"I was elected by the people of this community to represent them and their needs."* Well, that's just not true.

For the truth about whether this is an elected office or not, we refer you to the Indiana State Statute 3-5-2-17, which reads:

*Sec. 17. "Elected office" means a federal office, state office, legislative office, school board office, or local office. **Political party offices (such as precinct committeeman and state convention delegate) are not considered to be elected offices.***

Well gee, I guess that answers the basic question as to whether a precinct committee person, either Democratic or Republican, is an elected official or representative. They are not!

So, just what does the precinct Committee Person do and what governs them? For the answer to that we turn to the Democratic and Republican Party By-Laws. The precinct committee person gets to appoint their vice committee person. If they fail to do so, the county chairman of their party gets to. They also get to appoint persons to work in the polling place for the election. And again, if they fail to do so, the county party chairman can also do that for them.

What is most important to remember here is that THEY ARE NOT ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES! So, who are your elected representatives? To begin, we have a 5th District Councilman, Adrian Santos. He is elected to represent the needs of ALL of the residents of the 5th District, both Republicans and Democrats alike, to the Common Council of East Chicago. We also have three Councilman At Large who not only represent the residents of the 5th District, but more importantly the concerns of ALL of the residents of this great city to the Common Council. They are Councilman Joe DeLaCruz, Rich Medena and until his replacement on January 1st, George Pabey, at which time he will be replaced by Councilman Anthony Copeland.

So, who are your elected officials in East Chicago? That's simple too. We have a City Clerk, Ms Mary Morris Leonard. We currently have Judge Edward Fontanez who will soon be replaced by Judge Sonya Morris, and we have Mayor Robert A Pastrick. Those are your elected officials.

Just what has your Democratic Precinct Committee person done for you? Well, she has helped to get four people from this neighborhood city jobs. But then again, all four were all members of her immediate family. I suppose if charity begins in the home, then too should full employment of our residents. Or at least that appears to be her attitude on the subject.

Do you need either of your precinct committee persons to do anything for you? Absolutely not! Each and everyone of the various city services that are available to the residents of this great city are available through the various departments and governmental agencies. NONE of them requires the endorsement or approval of a precinct committee person!

If you want something done and don't know which department to call, just call and ask Paul Myers. At least when he gives you a hand in getting something done, he won't ask for your vote in return! East Chicago is a truly great place to live, work and to raise a family. And remember, you don't need Barbara's permission or assistance to do anything. Let's ALL work together to get the job done for EVERYONE! This is OUR community and WE can make a positive difference in OUR neighborhood!

Life begins when you begin to serve. Serve your neighborhood. Serve Marktown. Volunteer to help make Marktown a Better, Cleaner and Safer Place to Live and Raise a Family.