



# MARKTOWN UPDATE

A publication of the Marktown Preservation Society

December 2005

## Season's Greetings From Marktown

The Holiday Season is once again upon us and it is time to begin thinking about many things. Christmas past, Christmas present and Christmas future all come to mind as the holiday season shifts from Halloween to Thanksgiving and now to Christmas and the New Year.

The illustration below lends itself well to all three periods of time: the past, present and future. How many young people have delighted in seeing electric trains beneath the Christmas Tree each year. While trains may not be in vogue these days, the concept of sharing and giving remains with us always.

While toy trains may have been replaced with new electronic gadgets like portable CD players and something called an iPod, what is more important than the material gift is the concept of giving of one's self.

Far too often people get caught up in the gift wrapping and gift giving syndrome and forget the true meaning of the season. It is a time of sharing and understanding. It is a time of new beginnings and moving forward.

Since its inception in 1917 as the Mark Town Site, this neighborhood has always had the reputation of always working together for the common cause, putting politics aside for the betterment of the community.

In the early years when the bread winner of the family was laid off, their neighbors here in Marktown would see to it that the family stayed warm and were at least afforded one warm meal a day.

During World War II the ladies of Marktown formed a group that rolled bandages and provided

relief packages for the troops stationed abroad, much like what has happened this past year with the children of this community supporting the military troops in Iraq.

Following the war and just after the properties were sold by the company the residents worked together once again to prevent Youngstown Sheet and Tube from having our neighborhood zoned industrial so they could buy up the properties and eventually tear them down.

We worked together as a community in 1974 and placed Marktown on the National Register of Historic Places and prevented the federal government from razing Marktown for the expansion of Cline Avenue.

We worked together in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s on resolving garbage can issues, sewer gas issues and other critical matters that would have a negative affect on this neighborhood.

We worked together in the redesign of the Marktown Parks and on the street project that was begun in 1990.

We even worked together as a community to appeal the CLT reassessment of our homes, thus saving this neighborhood from what would have been outrageous taxes.

Over the past decade we have lost that focus

and that ability to resolve problems within this community. It is time to take the Christmas Season seriously and to once again put our differences aside for the betterment of all of the residents of Marktown. Let's work together this holiday season and for years to come in order to make the Marktown Historic District a truly wonderful place to live and to raise our families.

Paul A. Myers, Editor



### **Promises to Keep**

*is by nationally award winning artist Mitch Markovitz who also designed Season's Greeting From Marktown poster.*

visit us on line at [www.marktown.org](http://www.marktown.org)

# THE CONTAINED DISPOSAL FACILITY AND MARKTOWN

For a number of years the residents of East Chicago and especially the Marktown Historic District have expressed their concern for the environmental and health impact that the Contained Disposal Facility (CDF) will have on our community. There are two absolutes that must be taken into consideration: 1) The Indiana Harbor Ship Canal absolutely must be dredged, first to a navigational depth and then to a standard for environmental consideration, and 2) the dredged material will be stored at the CDF which is directly up wind from Marktown.

With these two facts in mind the question was raised as to what can be done to insure the safety and well being of our residents. The person who came up with the answer was Betty Balanoff, Ph.D. who serves as the Chairman of the Coalition For a Clean Environment CCE.

Mrs. Balanoff has fought for the environmental rights of all of the citizens in the Calumet Region and she knew where to go to for the answers. She teamed up with Bessie Dent of the Calumet Project.

A national group called the Technical Outreach Services To Communities (TOSC) provided a grant to Michigan State University (MSU) to facilitate a two part respiratory ailment survey of neighborhoods in East Chicago that may experience negative health impact from the dredging of the canal and the utilization of the CDF. TOSC is comprised of different members from across the U.S. but is based in East Lansing, Michigan at Michigan State University.

Elizabeth Wilkinson was brought in to facilitate the actual survey phase of the program. She holds a BA in

Sociology from Adrian College in Michigan and is currently on her 2nd and final year at the University of Michigan pursuing a Master's of Social Work.

Rose Estrada of Indiana University Northwest was in charge of recruiting the volunteers for the project, all of whom were students from IU Northwest. To announce the program a letter (in English and Spanish) from the CCE was delivered to Marktown residents with the September issue of Marktown Update. To facilitate the survey team while in Marktown the home of Paul Myers was made available to them for a staging area for the survey. For the record, this was a blind survey in that names and addresses of the participants were not requested or recorded.



**Top illustration:** A recent map produced by the Waterway Management District which shows the CDF and all of the various neighborhoods in East Chicago.

**Bottom photo:** University students from IU Northwest and University of Michigan, Ann Arbor who conducted the respiratory survey in Marktown this past October.

The individual survey forms will be reviewed at the University of Illinois - Chicago (UI-C) and their findings will be published in a professional journal late next year. Once that report is available it will be provided to the residents of Marktown and to various city officials as needed.

The second phase of the survey will take place approximately two years after they begin the actual dredging of the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the following groups and individuals who have made this project possible: Dr. Betty Balanoff of the CCE, Bessie Dent of the Calumet Project, TOSC, MSU, UI-C & the Marktown Preservation Society.

Survey team members:  
Elizabeth Wilkinson  
Briana Bahena  
Rose Estrada  
Carolina Flores  
June Long  
Danny Montemayor

**Visit our web site at [www.marktown.org](http://www.marktown.org) for additional articles and information!**

## A Special Thank You To Ms. Judy And Ms. Maria

With 2005 rapidly coming to a close we would be remiss in our duties as a community newsletter if we did not take the time to give credit where credit is due. And let me just say, it is long overdue for these two remarkable ladies.

Judy Hicks and Maria Perez may just be Recreation Department workers to you, but to this community and especially to the children of this neighborhood they are a great deal more. As many of you know, Judy Hicks grew up in Marktown and all of her children and grandchildren still reside here. While Ms. Maria does not live in Marktown she is a lifelong East Chicago resident and is obviously considered to be a part of Marktown's extended family.

Together, they do a great deal more than just run the Recreation Department programs. They see to it that snacks are nearly always provided

for the children when they come off of the school bus. As kids will be kids, they look after them to make sure that fights do not happen after school or on their way home and that the children are kept safe.

They provide guidance, inspiration, fun and educational activities and they make the after school times interesting and challenging for the children. They come up with some outstanding ideas that have been adopted by the Recreation Department for use across the entire city. One good example of that is the Back to School Festival which is now a city wide event.



Together, with the volunteers like Juanita McCormick, Kim Rodriguez, and Nancy (Deiotte) Fink they develop ideas that they are able to put into action, usually with supplies that are donated by residents of this community. Well done ladies. You are an inspiration for us all!

## Mark Manufacturing Included In Exhibit

For the past twenty years the Marktown Preservation Society, Inc. has sponsored a number of exhibits featuring the Marktown Historic District and its parent company Mark Manufacturing Company. This past year we donated a digital file of more than sixty 1920 photographs of our neighborhood and the production facilities of the adjacent plant to the Calumet Archive of Indiana University Northwest.

The original photographs were taken by the Chicago Architectural Photography Company for Mr. Clayton Mark in preparation for his sale of Indiana Harbor Works to Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company in 1923.

This past spring a portion of the collection was used in an industrial photo exhibit at IU Northwest.

We were not

surprised this past month when we learned that a portion of the photos were on display at the Indiana Welcome Center in Hammond on Kennedy Avenue just off of I80/94.

The exhibit is in relation to innovators in a number of disciplines & fields and is titled "Innovations: Celebrating Innovations In Ingenuity in Northwest Indiana." Included in the exhibit are a number of topics including manufacturing, air flight, oil refining and yes - Steel. Clayton Mark and Mark Manufacturing along with all of the major steel companies in the Calumet Region were known to be innovators in their own right.

Marktown will be included in at least one exhibit at the Indiana Welcome Center in 2006. See you at the Welcome Center!



Please contact us via the internet at [mrmarktown@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mrmarktown@sbcglobal.net)

## Marktown Update Celebrates 3rd Anniversary.....

Another year passes by and Marktown moves closer to being a neighborhood again as opposed to disagreeing factions with nothing but political control at the forefront. While this is the third year of Marktown Update, 2005 marks the fifteenth anniversary of the Marktown Preservation Society, Inc. - Marktown's only nonprofit organization recognized by the Indiana Secretary of State.

In the past three years we have published our monthly newsletter and have provided our residents and friends with more than 300 pages containing more than 350 articles in all. This past year we not only provided the usual 12 issues of Marktown Update, but we were privileged to issue our first special edition on the World Changers program. And let's not forget the various flyers that we have either developed ourselves or distributed to our residents on behalf of other organizations.

Far beyond the publishing of the newsletter, the Marktown Preservation Society, Inc. has served this neighborhood in many capacities, each time looking out for all of our residents. Our projects this past year have included but are by no means limited to the following:

- The successful appeal of 30 Marktown properties that were somehow omitted by CLT in the informal appeals process.
- The agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that air monitoring will take place in Marktown during the dredging of the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal (IHSC).
- The agreement with the EPA that when the risk analysis for the dredging of the Grand Calumet River and nonnavigable portions of the IHSC that the residents of Marktown will be involved in the survey and that our involvement will include full Spanish translation so that everyone is included and no one

is excluded.

- We represented the residents of Marktown during the Marquette Plan meetings and encouraged that the lands to the north of us be converted to park lands as opposed to industrial sites.
- We have provided homeowners with individual (free) consultations on the restoration and renovation of their property.
- We helped to facilitate the donation of four computers to the Marktown Community Center and have helped to make arrangements for free Comcast internet access to those computers.



- We donated more than \$500.00 of bulletin boards to the Marktown Community Center so that public notices and other items of interest to this community can be posted without having to staple into the paneling on the walls.
- We have worked with local youths to keep the parks clean for everyone.
- We have managed to obtain a representative position on the Waterway Management District's Environmental Committee
- We have included Marktown in the Cultural Connections Exhibit at the Indiana Welcome Center and are preparing a new display for an exhibit this upcoming year.
- We brought Dr. Betty Balanoff of the Coalition For A Safe Environment to Marktown for a well attended community meeting.
- We participated in a Legacy Foundation seminar on the gover-

nance of nonprofit organizations.

- We worked with city officials to guarantee that when the power went out last January, that the back up pumps were in place to keep our basements dry.
- We have provided invaluable tax relief information to property owners in Marktown in reference to tax credits and exemptions.
- We worked with NIPSCO Forestry Department to see that the trees in our park were not cut down or overly trimmed as they had attempted to do in the past.
- We supported the letter writing to the brave young and women who stand in harms way in Iraq.
- We assisted in the celebration of Memorial Day & Veteran's Day and helped instill in the children of this community the importance of those who serve in the U.S. Military.
- We helped to facilitate the Passion Play on Easter weekend and rejoiced with those present at that truly remarkable event.
- We have continued to negotiate with US Steel in obtaining the use or ownership of the parking lot adjacent to the softball field.
- We have worked with the E.C. Engineering Department on the renovation of the Marktown Community Center.
- We worked with Mayor Pabey, and 5th District Councilman Robert Garcia to see to it that the Marktown Community Center conforms to American Disability Standards so it can be used as our polling place for the 2006 elections.
- We have worked with the E.C. Engineering Department, the Office of the Mayor, Common Council members and the City Controller to see that the street project which was begun under our direction in 1990 is completed according to those plans this next year.
- We have donated books, video tapes and other items as needed to the Marktown Community Center for use by everyone from this community.

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

## .....While The MPS Celebrates Its 15th Anniversary

- We have helped to promote cultural diversity in Marktown and throughout this city and aided those supporting those less fortunate among us.

- We led the way this fall in volunteering to produce the Energy Assistance Program flyers and made sure that they were not only distributed to all of Marktown, but that posters were made available to all of the community centers across East Chicago.

- We worked with Mayor Pabey and the Parks and Recreation department to see to it that Marktown was included in the Arbor Day Celebrations and that three additional trees were planted in the Marktown Park.

- We obtained permission from the Water Department and the Fire Department to water the 17 new and relatively newly planted trees in our park and prevent their loss due to the drought of 2005.

- We signed Marktown up to have additional trees planted on the public parkways in 2006 making us an active part of Tree City USA.

- We continued our street by street public access weed whacking program and helped to clean up virtually all of the Marktown streets and sidewalks this past year.

- We completed two grants at a total value exceeding \$8,500.00 and in doing so installed a new planter and sign at 129th Street and Dickey Road.

- We renewed the 1920s planter on the corner of Indianapolis Blvd. and Riley Road and have planted both perennials and spring bulbs for the benefit of all who pass by that intersection.

- We brought World Changers to Marktown and assisted in bringing them to the Carnegie Library District in Indiana Harbor and in doing so established a very nonpolitical way to serve our residents.

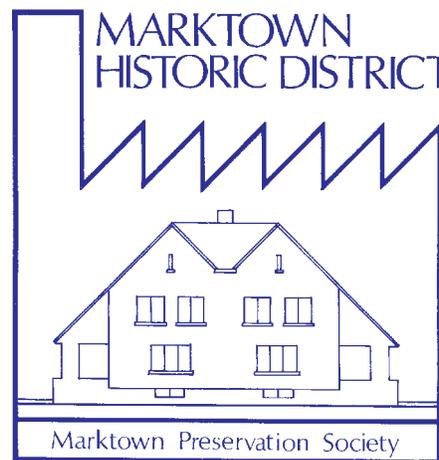
- We have assisted and supported the children of Marktown in various sports and recreational activities in-

cluding baseball, softball, sailing and football.

- With the use of Paul's Model A Ford we have been represented in all three local parades and at 4th of July Parades in Whiting and Highland.

- We have researched and provided information for stucco repair to all of our residents and readers.

- We have been asked to provide the house number shields to two more blocks of Marktown, free of charge. The numbers and shields will be painted in the spring of 2006.



- We have brought Purdue University Calumet to Marktown for educational purposes and in doing so, have increased the future potential of our entire neighborhood.

- We have brought the graduate school of the Art Institute of Chicago to Marktown for educational and research purposes.

- We are currently working with the staff at the Illinois Institute of Technology to bring their adaptive reuse architectural class to Marktown this next semester.

- We have brought more than 1,000 non residents to this neighborhood this past year, all of whom consider Marktown an absolute marvel of design and engineering and worthy of our attention to the original design.

- We have worked with the Pullman Historic District in celebrating historic preservation in the two neighborhoods.

- We have worked with city officials and Marktown residents in ridding our community of the raccoons and stray cats that have once again infested this neighborhood.

- We have begun the process of making sure that the next property reassessment will not run our friends and neighbors out of this neighborhood.

- We helped to facilitate the first phase of the respiratory survey that took place in October of this year, and in doing so have helped to guarantee the safety and health of all of the residents of Marktown.

In general, what we do is promote the future of the Marktown Historic District. We realize that had it not been for people like Chester Williams who fought to prevent Marktown from being zoned industrial in the 1950s that we would not be here to talk about this at all.

We realize that had Marktown not been placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975, that we would not be here to do anything, for Marktown would have been razed to make way for Cline Avenue and industrial expansion.

We realize that all of the major plans and projects that have been successful in this community were supported by virtually all of the neighborhood. We realize that the funding of the restoration of our parks in the 1980s was due to the fact that we are on the National Register of Historic Places. We also realize that the street renovation program that began in 1990 was funded because we are on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Marktown Preservation Society, Inc. is here to serve all of this neighborhood and to see that our future is as glorious as our past. It is time for everyone to put their petty differences aside and truly work for the betterment of this community and a future that can only be guaranteed through the celebration of our historic past.

**Historic preservation saved this community from the wrecker's ball in 1975 and should be the foundation of our future for generations to come.**

## Substance Abuse Seminar Provided For Area Youth

There is a new slogan in town and it can change people's lives, especially young people in our community. It's **"Promise to be drug free"** and was kicked off on Thursday, October 27th at the Marktown Community Center. Recreation participants from Bessie Owens Center in New Addition joined with the children of Marktown for a wonderful hour long presentation from Ms. Evelyn Gonzalez.

The program focused on the fact that it is their decision to be drug and alcohol free and that their future truly does rest in their hands and not those

around them.

Ms. Gonzalez knows how it works. You see, she is a recovering addict who abused drugs and neglected the important things in her life. But after spending just one week in jail she realized that her actions not only affected her, but the future lives of her children.

Ms. Gonzalez is not only drug and alcohol free but is in her third year at Calumet College of St. Joseph where she is majoring in addiction counseling. If anyone can get the point across to the children that drugs and alcohol are bad for you, then it is someone that has been there and done just that.

The event was very well received and Ms. Judy, Ms. Maria and the children of Marktown were very good hosts to our visitors from New Addition. So remember - just **Promise To Be Drug Free and KEEP THAT PROMISE every day of your life.**



## Energy Awareness Seminars Held For E.C. Residents

With natural gas prices for home heating expected to reach a new high this winter it didn't take a lot of forethought to know that something had to be done to help the residents of East Chicago with their home heating bills. It was a very natural move for East Chicago Councilman-At-Large Jesse Gomez to step forward and organize two seminars on the subject.

The last week of October saw East Chicago and Marktown residents filling St. Patrick Church Hall and then Heritage Hall two

days later for a one hour series of presentations put on by Menard's Inc., Northwest Indiana Community Action Corp., Gus Flores of the East Chicago Emergency Management Agency, and several representatives of the North Township Trustee's Office.

If you missed the presentations that doesn't mean that you will be left

out in the cold this winter. The meetings were not meant as sign up programs, but more importantly were used as informational platforms from which to build a warm and energy efficient winter.

For further information on either of the energy assistance programs please call or stop by the North Township Trustees Office at 397-4783 located at 2105 Broadway in Indiana Harbor. Let's make sure this is a warm winter for everyone! Remember to check in on senior citizens every day this winter!



**With TEAMWORK all things are possible. Let's all work together to make the Marktown Historic District a better, cleaner and safer place to live and to raise our families.**

## Remembering Veterans

One year after World War I drew to a close, President Woodrow Wilson declared November 11, 1919 as Armistice Day—a national holiday to celebrate victory in “the war to end all wars.” Yet the dream of world peace was soon shattered as first World War II, then the Korean Conflict called America’s troops back to the battlefield. In 1954, Armistice Day was renamed as Veterans Day, a fitting tribute to all the men and women who have defended the cause of freedom around the world. MPS was pleased to have participated in the E.C. Public Library display honoring U.S. Military veterans.



## Christmas Preparations

Thanksgiving is past and preparations are underway for Christmas around the world. Once again the East Chicago Parks and Recreation Department had each of the community centers decorate a tree for the East Chicago Greenhouse at Washington Park. This year the Marktown Community Center decided to decorate their tree in a Gingerbread Man theme. Ms. Judy and Ms. Maria immediately began working with the children from our community to make the ornaments and other decorations for the project. If you get a chance stop at Washington Park and see all of the great trees.



## Last Mail Call From Iraq

While the war in Iraq is not yet over, for many of the brave military personnel from the Calumet Region who serve in the 113th Engineer Battalion of the National Guard, it is just about over as their unit is scheduled to return home in the next few weeks.

These have been trying times for each and every one of these brave service people and most especially for their family members who worry about them each and every moment of every day.

Over the past year many of the children of the Marktown Historic District have taken the time and effort to write to servicemen and women that they didn't even know. This effort was led by Judy Hicks and Maria Perez, the team leaders at the Marktown Community Center.

Each month the children colored in drawings, provided their own original art work, wrote letters and donated everything from candy to hand cream for shipment to the servicemen and women in Iraq. Over this past year many of the servicemen have sent letters, photos and other memorabilia back to the Marktown Community Center with letters of appreciation to those who participated from Marktown.

Marktown Update has had the honor and the privilege of sharing some of these items with our readers. Hopefully, everything that was sent will be permanently archived either here in Marktown or at

the East Chicago Room of the E.C. Public Library.

While each item received at this end was very special we were overwhelmed at the custom embroidered Iraq flag that was sent to Marktown by our old friend Sgt. Joe Andujar. Sgt. Andujar, or G.I. Joe as he prefers to be called, had taught chess classes at the Marktown Center and elsewhere before shipping out for Iraq.

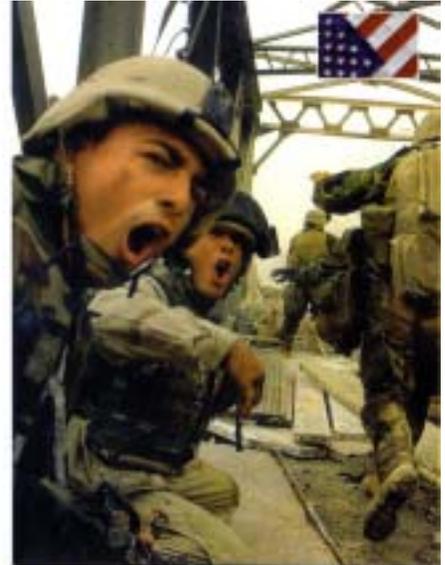
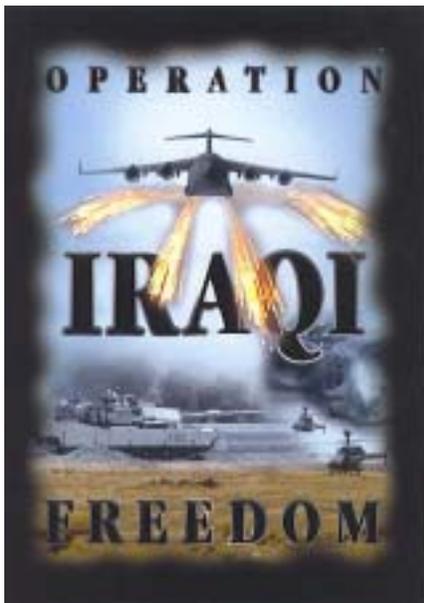
Over the past few months several of the servicemen have stopped at the Marktown Community center to say hello while home on leave from Iraq. EVERYONE who had the opportunity to speak with the servicemen were in tears that they took precious time out of their personal leave just to say hello.

It is with pleasure that we extend our thanks and appreciation to each and every person who assisted in this project and most especially to the servicemen and women who put their lives on the line so that others may know the freedoms that we so often take for granted in this great country of ours.

On the last page of this issue of Marktown Update you will find photos of some of the items sent to the children of Marktown this past year. For further information on great programs like this, please stop in at the Old Marktown Community Center and see Ms. Judy or Ms. Maria. They are always willing to lend a hand.  
Paul A. Myers - Editor

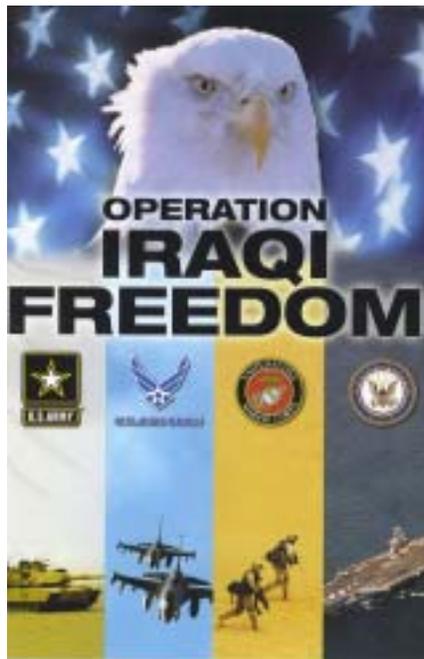
**The printing of this newsletter is made possible through the generosity of Mr. Dan McArdle, a former Marktown resident and a true friend of this community.**

# Souvenirs From Iraq Sent To The Children of Marktown



OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM  
DOH-RAHI

Carlos Reyes



Rodrice Cole



Post cards, Iraq coinage and local art work sent to the children of Marktown are but a small part of the items sent in response to the letters from the children of Marktown.

## A Birthday Celebration In Marktown

A surprise birthday party was held on Saturday, November 19th for Judy (Balog) Hicks. It was well attended by family, friends and Marktowners past and present. Age not disclosed.

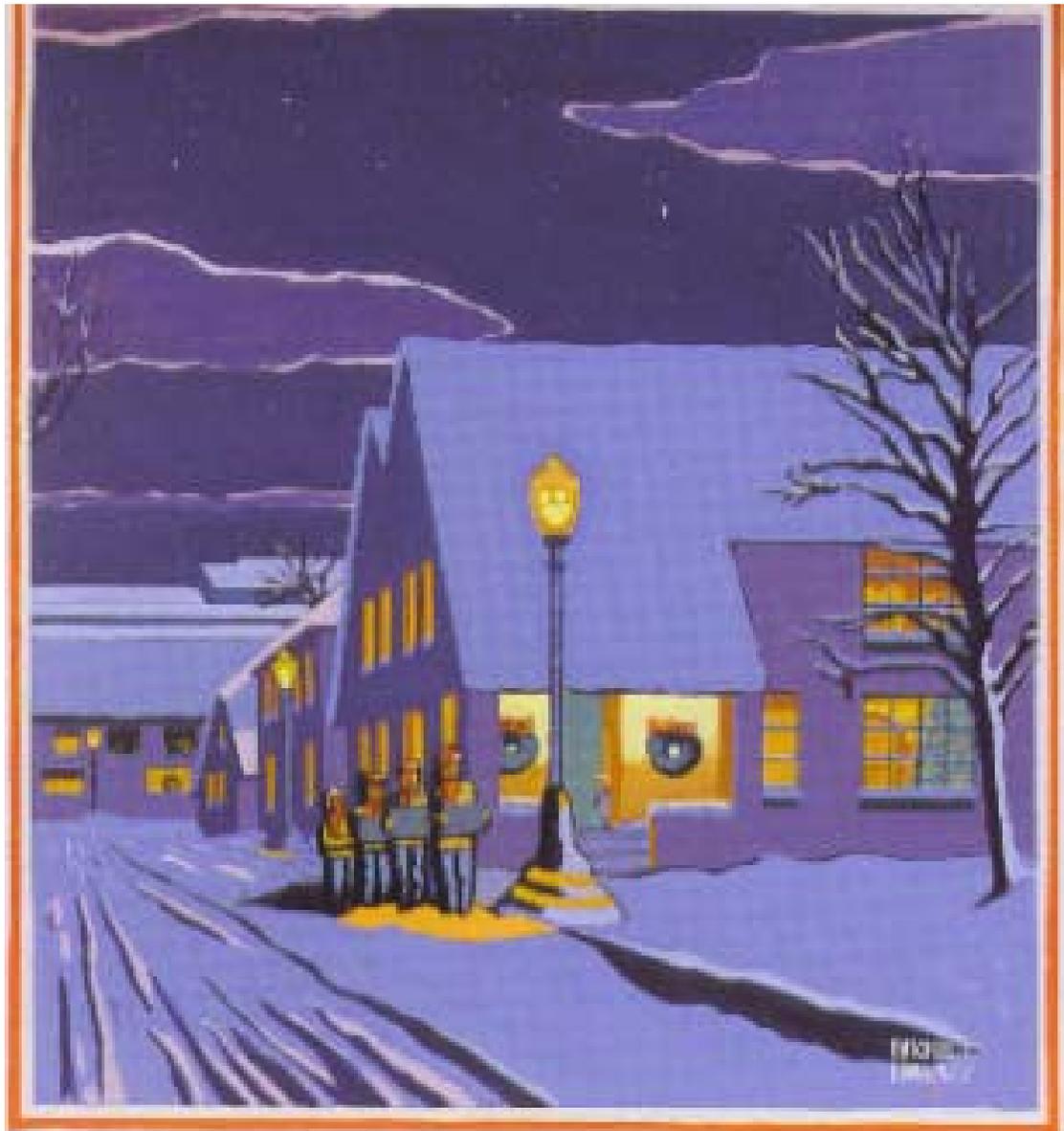


**B&W:** Vintage photos of Judy and family.  
**Color top left:** the children and grandchildren  
**top right:** Mr. & Mrs. Fernando Silva, former of Marktown  
**Above:** Judy unwraps gifts and Kim (Unger) Rodriguez) assists.  
**Right:** Judy and Babe

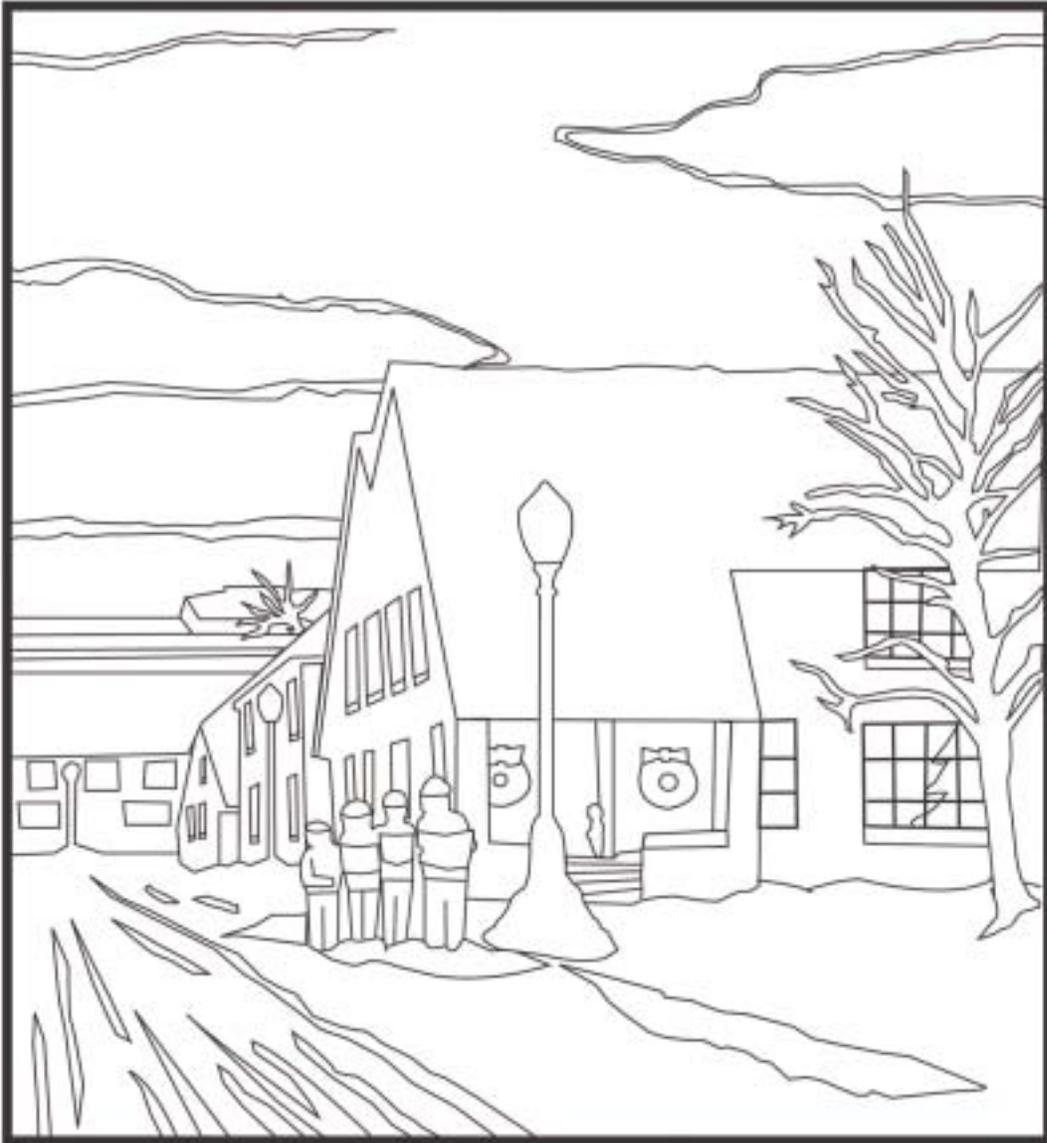
**Special thanks goes to everyone who made this day special for Judy and her family and friends.**

# Season's Greetings From Marktown

Christmas ornaments and coloring book posters



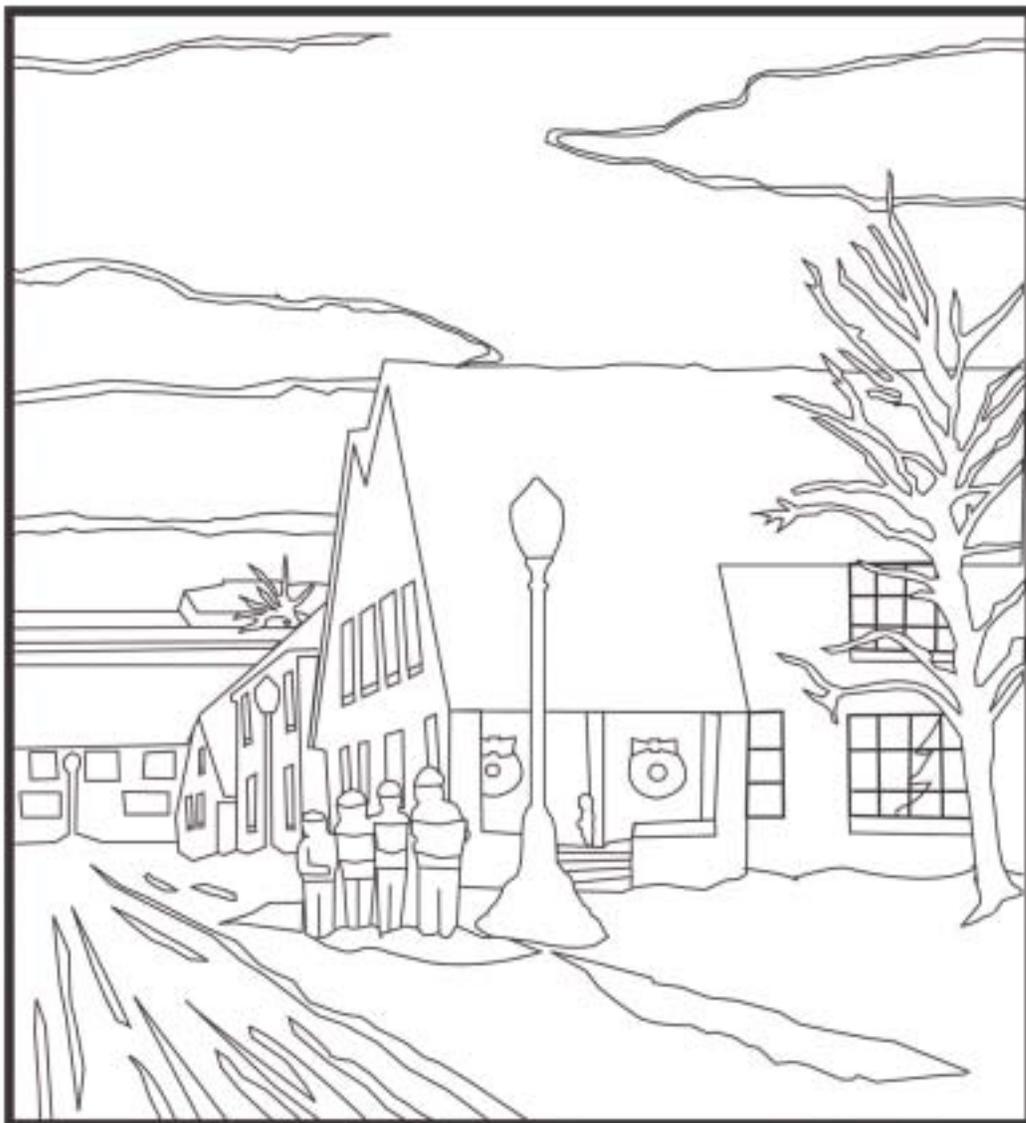
**Season's Greetings**  
*From Marktown, Indiana Harbor and all your Family & Friends  
in Northwest Indiana... Just around the corner along the*  
**South Shore Line**



# Season's Greetings

*From Marktown, Indiana Harbor and all your Family and Friends  
in Northwest Indiana... Just around the corner along the*

# *South Shore Line*



FELIZ Navidad

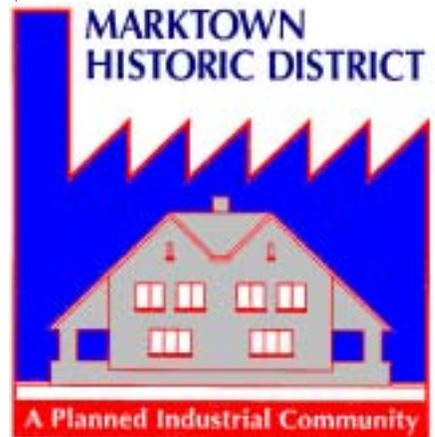
*From Marktown, Indiana Harbor and all your Family and Friends  
in Northwest Indiana... Just around the corner along the*

*South Shore Line*



Feliz Navidad  
from the bottom of our hearts!

Season's Greetings &  
Feliz Navidad  
From the children of



Season's Greetings & Feliz Navidad  
From the children of Marktown

If printed on a card stock or construction paper the ornaments can be colored with pencils, markers or even crayons. They can also be decorated with glitter. The space at the bottom of these two ornaments is designed so the child can write their name on the ornament. They are great as tree ornaments or as gift tags.

