



MARKTOWN UPDATE

A publication of the Marktown Preservation Society

July 2007

The Marktown Parks Are Truly An Extension Of Our Own Back Yards

When the Mark Town Site was first designed by Howard Van Doren Shaw, it was to house 8,000 workers and was to have a major park system complete with a pond/lake and a club house. As the size of the neighborhood was reduced, so too was the size of the parks and other amenities.

With the expansion of the steel mill in the 1950s came an additional 13 acres of park lands to Marktown. The parks on Pine Avenue and Broad Street were added at that time at the insistence of the residents and at the cost of the steel mill.

It is most fortunate that the Marktown residents have this wonderful acreage of park land for we have some of the smallest residential yards or lawns in all of the Calumet Region. In fact, the only homes that have smaller yards have no yards at all. That's why the Marktown Parks truly are an extension of our own back yards.

This becomes readily apparent in the summer months when families gather in Marktown, whether it is for a specific purpose like Father's Day or a birthday, or just because families like to get to-

gether. The picnic groves in Marktown become places where families and friends alike can spend a day together.



A steady line of cars parked at the edge of the Marktown Park can only mean one of two things: 1) a family picnic, or 2) there is a softball game in the park.



There are just never enough picnic benches in the Marktown Park when the warm weather sets in for the summer.



Volleyball nets are not new to the Marktown Park as seen here when a family picnic becomes a friendly game.



Tennis anyone? The Marktown tennis courts are once again being utilized by Marktown residents and guests alike.

The Parks Department does have some simple rules that need to be followed, and then there are those common sense rules that also have to be considered.

1. If you want to reserve a portion of the park for a specific event you need to personally go to the Parks Department office and fill out their mandatory form.

2. The city does not provide porta-potties. If you have a need for them you will have to make arrangements on your own.

3. If you want extra picnic tables delivered you need to put that request in writing at least four days in advance.

4. If you have a lot of items to deliver to the site, please DO NOT DRIVE in the park. Please carry them in from the street.

5. Alcoholic beverages are banned by law in all city parks. If you want to drink, please don't do it in the park.

6. Please clean up after you are done. If you have used city garbage cans, please move them to the edge of the park so the city crews can pick them up.

So, let's all enjoy the summer season in the Marktown Parks!



A friendly family game of football (soccer) in the Marktown Park helps build the participants appetites!

visit us on line at www.marktown.org

History of Marktown - 1917 to 1967

from the Marktown Golden Jubilee Program - Saturday, July 15, 1967

Marktown stands on what was once swampy marshland. In 1907, the East Chicago Engineering Department surveyed and laid out what are now known as Riley and Dickey Roads, both of which bisected Berry Lake. At that time Berry Lake extended from the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks almost to Forsythe Avenue, now Indianapolis Boulevard, and was an excellent spot for fishing, hunting ducks and geese, and for trapping muskrat. In order to transport the stakes and measuring pile for sighting a line from one spot to another, Lester Oenheimer Sr., and Charles Jeppson, who were working for the summer, would tie a piece of tough cord around their necks and then swim or wade from bog to bog. Upon reaching the bog, they would pull in the cord, to which was attached a rope that secured the stakes and measuring pile.

In 1913, representatives of the Mark Manufacturing Company of Chicago purchased a 92-acre site located on the west side of the Indiana Harbor ship canal from squatters who had built shacks along the lake shore and were carrying on a prosperous fishing business. It was not until July, 1916 that construction of the new mill began. Mr. Fred Schmidt, a resident of Marktown since 1921, was one of the construction workers.

At the same time that the mill was being constructed, the building of a "model city" called Mark Town Site was begun on a piece of property west of the steel plant at Dickey Road and 129th Street because the Mark Manufacturing Company realized the community could not provide housing for their employees. Mr. Mark sent architect Howard Shaw to Europe to study the industrial communities there and it was after them that Marktown was modeled. Unlike these stereotyped succession of houses, however, the homes were to be of different sizes and provisions were made for schools, shops, recreation, and club facilities. The townsite consisted of some 200 white stucco single and duplex type homes, a hotel, garage, and four store buildings with apartments above. There were also baseball and football fields, a tennis court and a playground for the children. The property was rented for low rates and the company kept the buildings repaired and decorated, and mowed, watered and reseeded the lawns. This prac-

tice was carried on when the Mark Manufacturing Company and the Iriquois Iron Company incorporated in 1918 to form the Steel and Tube Company of America, of which Mr. Mark was Chairman of the Board, and also when Youngstown and Sheet and Tube Company purchased all the holdings in June 1923. In 1942, the buildings were sold to individual buyers, with the residents of Marktown having first option to buy.

Colonel Walter J. Riley was the agent for Mr. Marks and was so interested in the progress in the construction that he made almost daily trips from Indiana Harbor in order to observe the work. He also included those who worked in the offices of the subdivision in the annual dinner and theatre parties that he gave for the employees of his bank.

The early residents of Marktown encountered some difficulties because there were no paved roads in the district, and once one arrived here the streets were so deep in mud that it was impossible for the wagons to be driven in. This made it necessary for the wagons to be left on Dickey Road and for the furniture and personal belongings to be carried in. One woman tells of wishing that her

parent's piano would be dropped in the mud and ruined so that she would not have to take any more piano lessons. The outside steps of the homes had not yet been built, so planks leaning against the house were used as a means of entrance.

The residents of Stiglitz Park, located on the west side of Indianapolis boulevard, raised horses and cows which often wandered into Marktown to graze, and occasionally some of the more enterprising residents would

milk one of the visiting cows. There were horses in Marktown, too, but these were used to pull the wagons and other construction equipment, and were housed in barns located on what is now a ball diamond.

Before 1917, several homes had been built across Dickey Road in what was known as North Harbor and the occupants of these homes received their mail and voted in Marktown after its completion.

The hotel rooms were rented exclusively to men, but the dining room was open to everyone and was a lovely room in which the patrons were served by white-jack-



*Mr. Roller --- front center
1st Manager of Mark Hotel*

A new motto for Marktown: Try to leave things better than you found them!

eted Filipino waiters. There was also a large room in which several churches and other groups held their meetings. The first managers of the hotel were Mr. and Mrs. Roller.

The first grocery store, owned by Mr. George Blade, was a crude shed built onto the back of the hotel. Prior to that time, his store had been in one of the two buildings located on the present site of the Northern Indiana Public Service Company power plant on Dickey Road.

The first Post Office was at 3020 Oak Street, the home of Mrs. Dora Sheffield, and consisted of a counter and office equipment in the living room. After the post office was moved to the store building, Mrs. Sheffield retired and Mr. T. F. Hein, the manager of Marktown, asked Margaret Canon to become the postmistress, which she did. Mrs. Canon, now Mrs. Otis Burner, moved from the subdivision this year.

Another unusual feature of the "model city" was the fountain and park located in front of the store building, around which Dickey Road and 129th made a circle. It was a lovely spot in which to relax, but several automobile accidents occurred there, so for safety's sake the fountain and the greater part of the park were removed and the road was straightened in 1929. The store building was occupied by the post office, Blade's grocery, Lukins' drug store, managed by J.G. Jones' Edwards barber shop and pool hall. The repair crews, managed by Mr. Adam Redman, kept their supplies in a small building behind the stores. At present the building is occupied by a barber shop, construction company of- fice, grocery store, library and restaurant.

At the present time the school building houses a kindergarten and first and second grade, but when the school was first opened in 1920 there were five grades. The first teachers were Miss Haines, Miss Walker and Miss Sutton. Miss Sutton is Mrs. Harold Weaver, who was a well known East Chicago Girl Scout executive until 1966. For many years there was a local P.T.A. Chapter. The building next to the school is known as a community or recreation building and it is here that community meetings and parties are held. It was also in 1920 that Mr.

Mark purchased two buses and provided free transportation to Washington School for the children, and half-hour trips to Michigan and Guthrie Streets for the adults, also free of charge. The first driver was Mr. Lloyd Bunting. Mr. Mark held annual Christmas parties at the hotel and gave each child who lived here a lovely gift. The popular forms of adult entertainment were baseball games, street dances and pitching horseshoes. At one time Rev. J.M. Fildley Brown was director of recreation and supervised volley ball, tennis, baseball and track meets.

In 1920 the first Boy Scout troop was chartered in Marktown. The Scoutmaster was Charles Fuller and the assistants were Harold Bissonette, Sumner Van Inwegen and Joseph A. Malandrone. The first Cub Scout troop was chartered in 1931 in Marktown with David Taylor as

Scoutmaster and Fred Paulsen and Raymond Shy as assistants. In 1925 The Girl Scouts were organized under the leadership of Miss Ardell Smith, but it was not until 1935 that the Girl Scout Brownies came into being.

During the depression the women of Marktown cooked and served dinner at the Marktown School in order to make sure that the children of those families which were without employment would have at least one nourishing hot meal a day. Because there was little money to spend on entertainment, the adults attended dances held at the Boy Scout house (now Riley Park) and it cost only 25 cents for the evening's entertainment.

The residents of Marktown have always been active in local and civic affairs, so it



Redman and Jones

was only natural that during World War II, the community had a well-organized home defense unit which conducted safety inspections as well as policing the streets during blackout drills. The men and women took a different first aid course and a group of women rolled bandages. Many of these same women are now making cancer pads. The residents gave parties for the boys who returned home from the service, at which time they were also given gifts as a small token of appreciation. In 1942, a service flag and an honor roll plaque located at Park Street and Dickey Road were dedicated.

(continued on next page)

Volunteer to help make Marktown a better, cleaner and safer place to live and raise a family.

The teenagers were also a civic minded group, either volunteering help or readily doing any task they are requested to do. They wished to contribute to the plans for the Golden Jubilee celebration, so held a bake sale and two paper drives.

The garage, which was operated by Mr. John Muldoon, is now a construction office and a bar and grill. The Shy family built the Mill Gate Inn, but are no longer connected with the business. Another landmark that is very familiar, although some distance from Marktown, was Barbour's Lunchroom which was situated at the foot of the steel mill bridge from 1928 until

1956. Several homes and garages have been built in what were empty lots and the small baseball field.

In 1952 the Civic Club was formed to act as agent in helping solve local problems. During its duration the children were given large Easter, Halloween and Christmas parties. After it was dissolved, the Men's Club was organized to carry on some of the functions, but it too, has disbanded.

Mr. Clayton Mark Sr., passed away in 1936 and his sons continue to manage Clayton mark Steel Manufacturing Company in Evanston, Illinois. We who live in Marktown are grateful that Mr. Mark was able to reach part of his goal of housing 7,000 people. Many residents have been here 30, 40 or more years, there are several three-generation families and one four-generation family --- Mrs. John Pollack, Mr. Albert Pollack, and Mr. Frank Pollack and daughters. Mr. George Holzbah was brought here by his parents in 1918 and is still a resident.

This brings us to 1967. The town which was featured in "Ripley's Believe It Or Not" as the only town in

the country where the cars park on the sidewalks and the people walk in the streets is not too greatly changed. Television, bowling and more extensive traveling have replaced the former diversions --- walks to Indiana Harbor and to

the canal bridge to purchase fish. The children's game of sitting at Dickey Road on Sunday afternoons counting cars and guessing their makes. But in spite of these changes, the neighborly feeling is still very much in evidence in time of trouble or good fortune. That this is a close-knit community can be attested to by the great interest in the Golden Jubilee and the many hours of hard work that were

exerted in order to make the celebration possible.

The festivities of the Golden Jubilee celebration opened in the morning with a parade led by a color guard and band, and included guests of honor and children with decorated bicycles, tricycles and buggies. Prizes were given in each category. After the parade free doughnuts and coffee were served. Races, a tug-o-war, and a pie-eating contest were followed by an Indian dance program.

Throughout the day game booths and pony rides were available for children and food stands for everyone. At the Hospitality Center former residents signed a guest book, there was a display of pictures and old articles, and the souvenir booklet was sold.

Late in the afternoon a more formal program was planned. At this time comments were made by guest speakers including city and state notables,

and a showteen performance was presented. Certificates of Recognition were given to the City of East Chicago, Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company, the family of Clayton Mark Sr., George Holzbach, and the former



One of two Mark Subdivision buses donated my Clayton Mark - drive Kenneth Redman



The original Marktown Garage which services company and Marktown resident vehicles. Now Michels Bar & Grill

Unless history lives in the present it has no future!

Marktown resident or residents who had traveled the greatest distance in order to attend the Golden Jubilee. The celebration closed with a street dance.

Money to defray the expenses were obtained through ads purchased by companies, a donation from the Men of Marktown of the "thank you purse given to them by the residents for their hard work in clearing the streets during the blizzard in 1966, and bake sales, a bingo game, a pancake breakfast, a smoker sponsored by Marktown, and a teenage paper drive.

Mrs. Henry Barnett, Historical Chairman

About the Marktown Golden Jubilee in 1967

Several years before Marktown was to celebrate its 50th anniversary Democratic Precinct Committeeman William (Bill) Hess began working with the residents of Marktown on the plans for the celebration. As chairman of the event he was assisted by Mrs. Dan Cherogan and Mrs. Frederick G. Schultz who served as co-chairman. The Golden Jubilee Officers also included Treasurer Winston McDaniel; Mrs. Lucile Hess, Secretary Mrs. George Johnson; Assistant Treasurer Mrs. Dan Cherogan.

Other committees included:

Refreshments with Mr. Fred Unger as Chariman, his wife Mrs. Mary Agnes Unger, Mrs. & Mrs. James Bruner, Mrs. Dan Cherogan, and Mr. Nick Ozarek.

Ways and Means
Mr. Winston McDaniel, Nick Ozarek, Mrs. Fred Unger, Mrs. Marty Lewis, Mrs. William Morrison, Mrs. Joseph Derkacy, Mr. Ralph Reel and Mrs. William (Bill) Snyder.



First teachers at the Mark School center -- Reah Weaver

Parade Committee

Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Tonagel, Mr. & Mrs. William (Bill) McShane, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Setler, Mrs. Micky Varro and Mrs. James Clark.

Special Committee

Mr. Charles C. Hendley, Jubilee Engineer, Mr. Dennis Karas, Jubilee Advisor and Mr. Michael E. Connelly, Jubilee Attorney

Street Dance

Mr. Winston McDaniel, Mr. Leroy Dudek, Mr. Dan Cherogan and Mr. Fred Unger.

Teens Committee

Mrs. James Clark as adult assistant, Ms Debbie Setler, Ms Marsha McShane, Mr. Danny McArde, Ms Janice Balog and Ms Patty Cox.

Childrens Recreation

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Setler, Mr. & Mrs. Alan Burrell, Mr. James Mullally, Mrs. Rose Johnson and Mrs. Gordon Morrison.

Historical Committee

Mrs. John Barsich, Mrs. Ray Meger, Mrs. Myrtle Fernando, Mrs. Russell Constant, Mrs. Henry Barnett, Mrs. George Johnson, Mrs. Mary Rodman, Mrs. Harry Smith and Mrs. Tom Wier.

The ***Ripley's Believe It Or Not*** illustration was a direct result of the actions of the Golden Jubilee committee and the hard work of Mrs. Dorothy Barnett. As a

part of the event a program was printed with a number of early Marktown photographs and the historical article included in this publication. To raise funds for the publication advertisements were solicited from local merchants including Main Sporting Goods, Marktown Barber Shop, Jim Mullally's Restaurant, Marktown Food Market, Carl's Hardware and Matchen Florist which was then owned by Bill Raykovich.



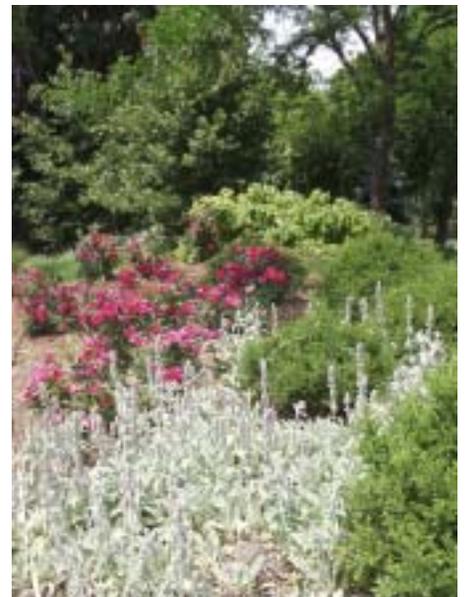
Children at play in the original wading pool. The pool was located in the Old Park where the pavilion stands today.

Let's work together to preserve Marktown's unique history and architecture for future generations to come.



Thirteenth Annual Garden Walk
sponsored by the
Historic Pullman Garden Club

Saturday, June 16, 2007
Veranda of the Hotel Florence
11111 S. Forrestville Avenue
Chicago, Illinois





Do the Pullman gardens give you any ideas as to what you can do in your own Marktown garden? Think Marktown & think gardens!

David Rodriguez Still In There Swing'n & Catch'n



David Rodriguez, now 21 years old hasn't given up on playing baseball, not in the slightest. Shown here on the left is David (No. 10) at bat for the Indiana Indians. In the photo on the right David is catching for his team at Calumet Park in South Chicago.

The baseball and softball tradition continues in the Rodriguez family as young Ryan Rodriguez is playing in the American Legion Post 369 League.



And don't give up there. David, Ryan and Mo are all three playing softball on a Wednesday evening league.

As we have noted before, the softball and baseball traditions in Marktown are not new by any means as we have had teams dating back to the very beginning of Marktown. So keep up the good work and by all means maintain the "play ball" tradition.

Three State Bicycle Tour Stops In Marktown

Friday, June 22 brought approximately 150 bicyclists to Northwest Indiana for breakfast and then to points east and a walking tour of the Marktown Historic District. Le Tour de Shore as it is known is a three state two day event that began at the McDonald's Bicycle Station in Chicago's Millennium Park and concluded at the Michigan Warren Dunes.

Proceeds from the ninety mile tour go to the Maywood Fine Arts program which provides programs for art, mu-

sic, drama, dance and tumbling for the children of the Maywood community.

While this is not the first time Le Tour de Shore has come through Northwest Indiana, it is the first time that they decided to include the Marktown Historic District in their schedule. Participants learned of Marktown's unique heritage and toured the inside of one home.

Special thanks goes to the East Chicago Parks Department for providing washroom facilities for our out of town guests.



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