



MARKTOWN UPDATE

A publication of the Marktown Preservation Society

June 2005

Arbor Day Celebrated in Marktown

Arbor Day isn't new by any means. It was established in 1872 by J. Sterling Morton of Nebraska. Since then it has served as a national observance that encourages tree planting and tree care. For the past several years the City of East Chicago has been named one of but fifty some cities in Indiana as a "**Tree City U.S.A.**" and 2005 is no exception.

The festivities began on Friday, April 29th at Veteran's Park adjacent to City Hall. Several hundred students from nearby Harrison Elementary School were present along with members of the public and various department heads and superintendents. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources presented Mayor Pabey with a plaque once again recognizing East Chicago's efforts in relation to the proper planting and maintenance of trees.

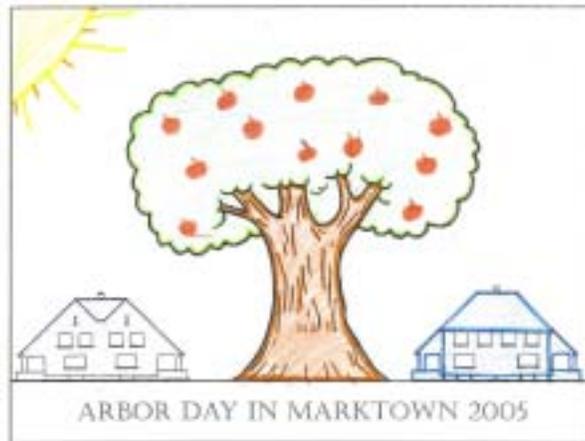
As a part of East Chicago's ongoing efforts to encourage "smart growth" the East Chicago Parks and Recreation Department encouraged the children at the various community Centers to participate in a poster contest.

Two winners were chosen from each of the various centers. The winners from the Marktown Historic District were Brian Dail and Jackie Alvarado.

A special coloring book page was also produced exclusively for the children of Marktown and throughout the month of April dozens of children from Marktown took the time to color in the tree and houses. Their pages were displayed at the Marktown Community Center throughout the month

To continue the city celebration Mayor Pabey and a number of city officials made it a point of coming to the Marktown Historic District and planting three flowering crab trees in the Marktown Park. Those present included City Clerk Mary Morris Leonard, Recreation Department Manager Jose Bustos, Parks Superintendent Rudy Byron, Councilman-at-Large Jesse Gomez and Marktown resident Paul Myers who had coordinated the Marktown portion of the Arbor Day Celebration.

We thank Mayor Pabey for keeping Marktown in mind.



A Laura Gandara showed off her coloring talents this past month on the coloring book page designed exclusively for the Marktown Historic District.



left to right: City Clerk Mary Morris Leonard, Mayor George Pabey, Recreation Dept. Director Jose Bustos, Parks Superintendent Rudy Byron, Councilman-at-Large Jesse Gomez and the Paul A. Myers.



Arbor Day Poster Contest Winners: Judy Nava (left) and Jose Bustos (right) present certificates and custom t-shirts to Marktown winners Brian Dail and Jackie Alvarado.

TO RESTORE THE OLD VISIONS AND TO WIN THE NEW

Most people that live in Marktown will probably never see the sign that simply reads **"TO RESTORE THE OLD VISIONS AND TO WIN THE NEW"** but it's there all the same. It is a simple sign done in 4" vinyl letters and it is placed on the inside face of the beam that supports one of the Marktown front porches. It can be seen from the street without any problem as it is on one of the few porches that remains open and unincumbered.

The history of the quotation is as ingrained in Marktown as the architecture itself. It was written by Kenneth Sawyer Goodman, a playwright of the late 18th & early 19th century. His family were prominent businessmen from Chicago who made their fortune in the lumber business during the original construction of Chicago and the reconstruction of that city after the great Chicago fire of 1871.

Kenneth Goodman was well known in Chicago and across the nation for his writings and most especially his plays. It is from one such play that we find this particular passage. But why display it in Marktown?

During WWI Mr. Goodman served in the U.S. Navy as a commissioned officer. Just following the war he contracted viral phenomena while stationed at the Great Lakes Naval base north of Chicago. As penicillin had not been developed at that time he died at a very early age.

His parents

and grandparents wanted to have all of Chicago remember the young promising playwright and commissioned Howard Van Doren Shaw to build the Kenneth Sawyer Goodman Memorial Theatre at the prestigious Art Institute of Chicago. In 1925 that theatre was dedicated. At the entrance to the building,

just behind the Doric columns in an Indiana limestone freeze are the words **"TO RESTORE THE OLD VISIONS AND TO WIN THE NEW."**

From its inception in 1925 through much of the last century the Goodman Theatre has stood the test of time. It is listed in the American Institute of Architects Guide to Chicago and has served Chicago well these past eight years.

But all of that will end this year when it will be razed to build a new wing for the Art Institute of Chicago. The Art Institute has hired an architect from Italy to design the new building. You see, no one, not one architect or architectural firm from Chicago would even consider razing the Goodman Theatre.

Why is it that outsiders are always the ones that want to destroy the architectural and social fabric of a community.

If we are to find new visions for Marktown, we must do so by restoring the old visions. Marktown deserves to be restored for the future of East Chicago and the nation. Let's all work together to make historic preservation the foundation of our future.



ABOVE: *The main entrance to the Kenneth Sawyer Goodman Memorial Theatre at the Art Institute of Chicago. This magnificent entrance way, flanked by two dorric columns, and the entire theatre will be totally destroyed to make way for what some consider to be progress. Is it progress to destroy an national landmark? Most if not all think not!*

BELOW: *The concept applies equally well to the Marktown Historic District: - **TO RESTORE THE OLD VISIONS AND TO WIN THE NEW** - The key word is **RESTORE!***



Letters From The Front - Iraq Update

Brother Paul,

5 May 2005

I received a copy of the "Marktown Update" and was pleasantly surprised to see my response to Jackie and Rudy printed in the magazine. I find it as heartwarming as I found the letters from the young people of Marktown.

I recently received another surprise from a former Marktown resident. Captain Sharon Fernando Reinke (USN-retired) wrote me a delightful and touching letter enclosing a coin with my name engraved. She received a copy of the "Marktown Update" and needless to say, it has a far reaching effect.

My unit and I are serving in the highest traditions of the service although it is simply not home.

There are so many young faces here Paul, regardless of our political ideologies, our care for one another surpasses all those things that sometime divide a nation.

The young women here serve along side the men without complaint and do their duty with

as much zeal and zest as any man.

I am sure that when I reflect upon my time here, one day in the future, regardless of how I fell about this politically, I will know I participated in a first time event and that we have made a positive change in the quality of the lives of these people.

Sincerely, John Spann

Marktown Center,

2005-04-25

Thank you for your support, all of us from C Co. 113th Engineer Bn. appreciate everything that you are doing back home. We are even more grateful to receive all the letters from the children. These are some of the little things that keep us motivated and sharp. I am doing just fine, currently on F.O.B. Endurance attached tot he 25th Infantry Division. I'm set to come home sometime around December, can't wait. Once again, thank you for your support and God bless you.

Carlos Reyes

Now do you see why we publish Marktown Update?

Indiana Welcome Center Tour Comes To Marktown

Tuesday, May 10th found a tour bus of enthusiastic visitors being guided through the streets of Marktown for a two hour long tour beginning at about 10:30 AM. The tour was a part of a national celebration of Tourist Week which is the second week of May. The Indiana Welcome Center at Kennedy Avenue and I80/94 sponsored the day long event which started out at the historic State Line Marker on the shore of Lake Michigan and the state line between Indiana and Illinois. From there they were off to the historic Whiting Community and then to Marktown.

The Marktown portion of the tour included the driving and walking tour portions as detailed in the Marktown brochure. Those present were also given a tour of a typical Marktown duplex on Prospect Street.

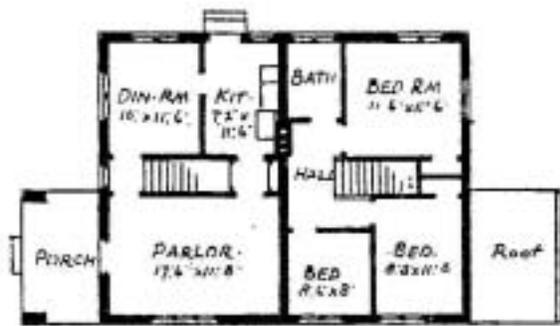
Tour director



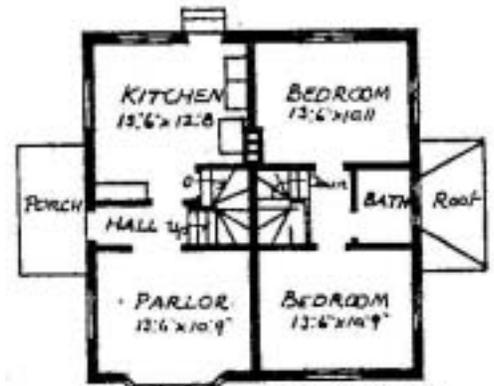
Waiting for stagglers: With more than thirty present for the tour, Marktown resident and tour guide Paul Myers answers a myriad of questions to those more fleet of foot.

Rick Henson was along for the ride and had this to say: *"Wow, I knew that this was going to be interesting, but I had no idea what Marktown was all about. Even if I had read the brochure and walked the neighborhood alone, being able to see what the homes are like inside and having someone to answer questions made this one of the highlights of the days events. What I found most amazing is that Marktown is as liveable today as it was when it was designed. If the residents could all work together and restore this place it would be one of the best neighborhoods and tourist destinations in all of Lake County!"*

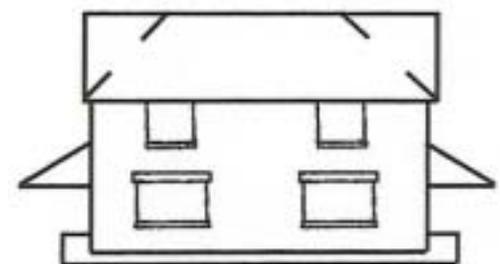
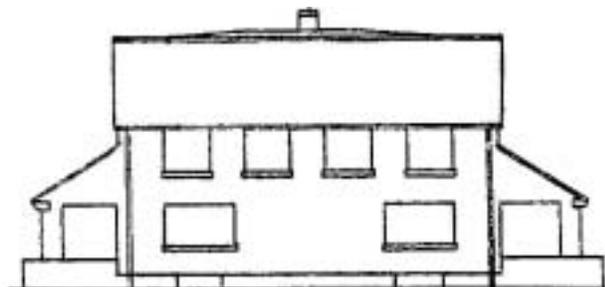
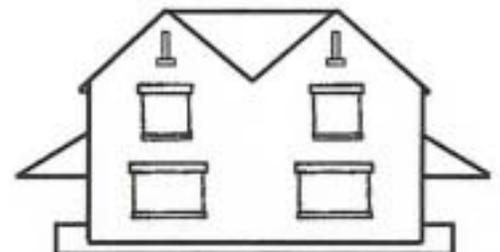
The Indiana Welcome Center hands out approximately 4,000 Marktown brochures to its visitors each year. This is but one of thirty scheduled tours planned for 2005.



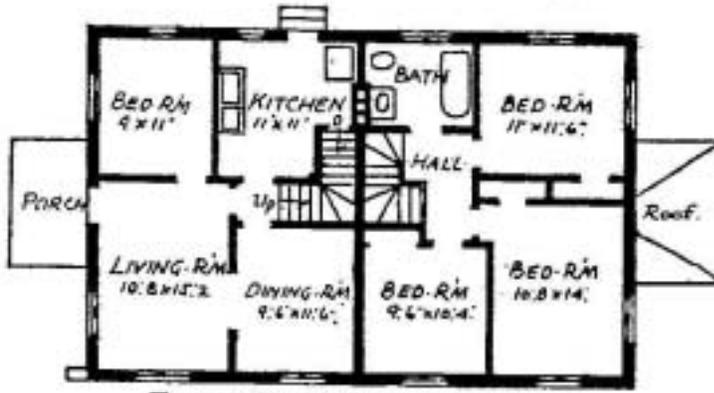
FIRST FLOOR & SECOND FLOOR
Plans of Double Six-Room House



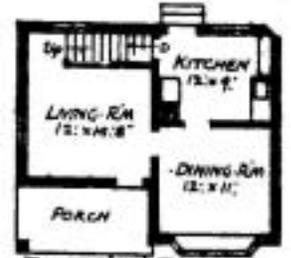
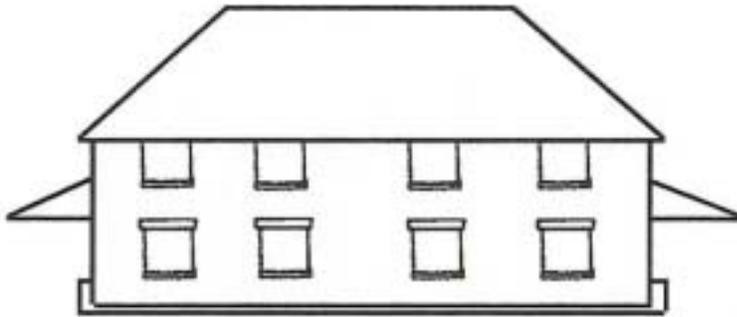
FIRST FLOOR - SECOND FLOOR
Plans of Double Four-Room House



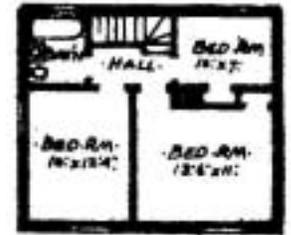
FIRST FLOOR & SECOND FLOOR PLANS
Plans of Quadruple Four and Five-Room Houses



FIRST FLOOR & SECOND FLOOR
Plans of Double Seven-Room House

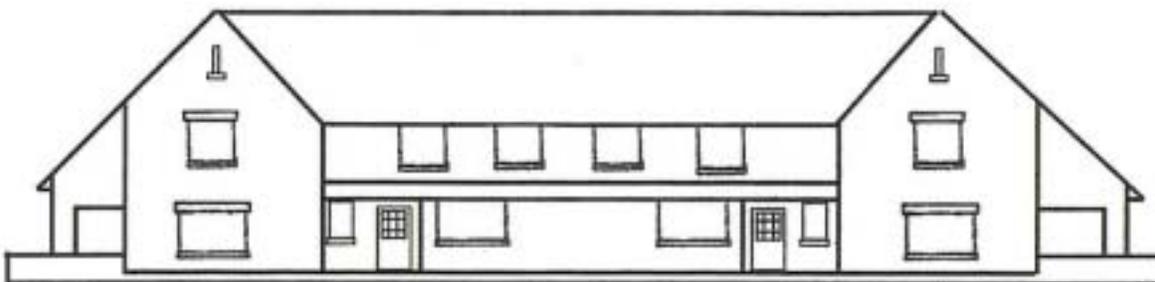
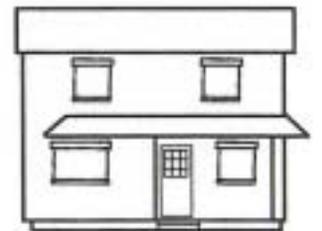


FIRST FLOOR
Single Six-Room Cottage



SECOND FLOOR
Single Six-Room Cottage

The initial phase of construction for the Mark Town Site was begun in 1917. The plat was not filed until Mark Mfg. and the housing was sold to Youngstown Sheet & Tube Company in 1923. The initial building phase was restricted to six floor plans with a total of 11 exterior elevations, all being relatively low cost well built worker houses or cottages as they were referred to at that time.



Marktown Ready for 'Swinging' Birthday Party

The Times - July 15, 1967

EAST CHICAGO - Marktown will celebrate its 50th birthday at day-long activities Saturday.

Jubilee chairman William L. Hess and 2,000 guests are expected to pack the tiny industrial neighborhood during the observance from 9 a.m. to midnight.

Plans call for the 1,200 residents and former residents to spend Sunday "...relaxing from the strain and fun of Saturday," Hess said.

Highlights of the observance will be an awards program at 4:30 p.m. which will be attended by United States Rep. Ray Madden and Sen. Birch Bayh.

Mayor John B. Nicosia will be master of ceremonies for the celebration.

The 300-home community is surrounded on three sides by the Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. and enclosed by the Standard Oil refinery.

The white-stuccoed subdivision sprouted at Riley Road and 129th Street in 1917 adjacent to the then Mark Manufacturing Company.

It was patterned after a village which was supposed to be the ancestral home of owner Clayton Mark Sr.'s family.

The community was built as a self contained community--including its own school, stores and recreation areas --to provide low-rent housing for steelworkers.

In 1941, YST sold their four, five and six-room duplexes to the individuals. Many of the original and second generation residents still live in Marktown.

Hess said 90 former residents will come from as far away as California and Texas for the celebration. More than 200 former residents will attend from throughout the Calumet Region.

A community service

award will be presented to Youngstown for its aid in last January's blizzard when Marktown was isolated from the rest of the city.

Awards will go to Col. Walter J. Riley and Nicosia. Madden and Bayh will deliver addresses.

The jubilee will begin at 9 a.m. with a parade through the community featuring antique cars from the Highland Model A. Restorers Club, a Boy Scout color guard and decorated childrens bikes, wagons and buggies.

Remainder of the activities will be in the large park area. The carnival type celebration will be ruled by a Marktown King and Queen and will feature children's game booths and pony rides from 12 to 6 p.m.

Morning festivities will be rounded out with dash, three-legged and sack races. A tug of war and pie-eating contest will be held in the afternoon.

A musical production will be presented by the Calumet Region Showteens at 3:30 p.m.

Marktown history will be reviewed through a display of old pictures and a museum in the recreation center.

It will be relived at an old-fashioned street dance from 8 p.m. to midnight featuring women dressed in costumes from the community's early days.

Hess said guests may park their cars in the Youngstown lots at Plant 2 and 129th Street and Dickey Road.

Post-celebration remodeling of the Spruce Street recreation center will be done by Marktown residents with materials supplied by the city.

Hess said improvements will include new windows, wiring, paneling and ceiling.

The city has already erected new street signs, painted curbs, school and recreation center and supplied new play ground equipment.



MARKTOWN MEN erect game booths for golden jubilee celebration Saturday in park area.

Editor's Note: Shown from left to right are Jim Mullally, Jim (Shad) Clark, Fred Unger, Robert Tarpley, Winston McDaniels and Leroy Dudeck. This article was provided by Joe and Linda (Walls) Gregorich who lived in Marktown at the time. Linda and Joe now reside in St. John but both have very fond memories of our neighborhood. We thank them for thinking of Marktown and in providing us with this long lost article.

SPRUCE AVENUE RESTORATION MOVES FORWARD

The Marktown Historic District street renovation project is not new to this neighborhood by any means. It was begun in 1989 when Marktown resident Paul Myers attempted to get but one parkway restored on Pine Avenue. At that initial meeting it was found that the city engineer had great plans for Marktown. There was one simple problem: the plans they had just would not work.

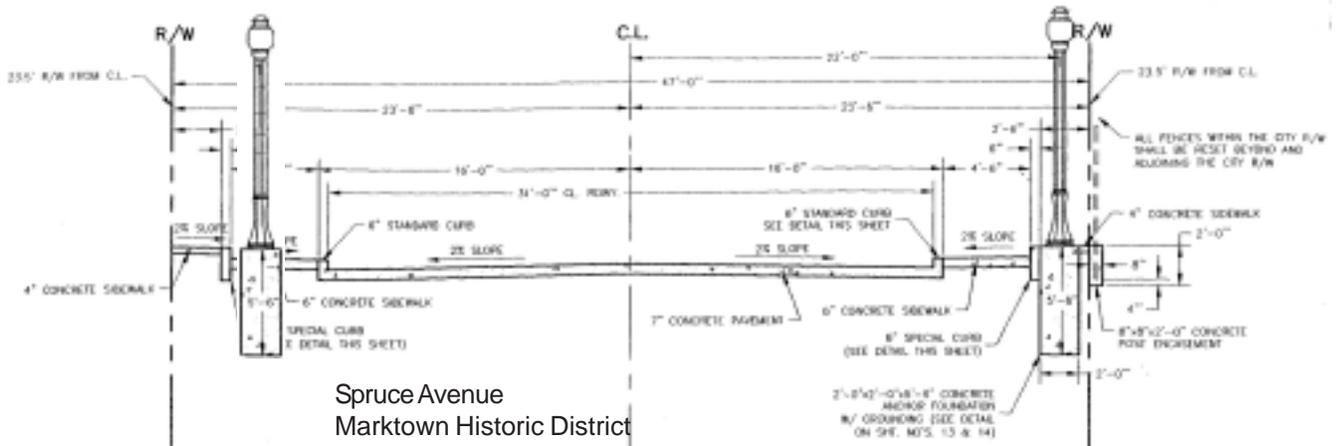
After months of public meetings and community input, a draft plan for the restoration of the Marktown streets was completed. Finally, virtually everyone in Marktown approved the project

While the original plans called for the comple-

tion of the job within five years, as we know that just did not happen.

Spruce Avenue was supposed to be completed two years ago when Oak Avenue was finished and that didn't happen either. We are however very pleased to announce that the Spruce Avenue portion of the project has gone out to bid and if all goes well it will be completed this year. Included in the project will be the removal of the NISPCO poles from the public sidewalks and the setback of a number of fire hydrants out of what will be sidewalk.

We thank Mayor Pabey and City Engineer Ernie Jones for keeping Marktown in mind.



A Marriage Made in Marktown

Wedding bells were heard in Marktown on Saturday, April 30 as Marktown's own Javier Madrigal was married to Garbiela Zavala. Javier grew up in Marktown and is the son of Jose and Clara Madrigal of Spring Street. They were joined in the marriage by their lovely children Alissa (9), Ruben (4), Vanessa (10) and Gabby (9).

The marriage ceremony was conducted at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church on Deodar Street in East Chicago.

The best man was former Marktown resident Fernando (Fern) Silva

who we are told had an absolutely wonderful time at the reception, that is the parts that he can remember. The reception was held at the Moose Lodge in the Hessville area of Hammond.

Other Marktown guests included Monique Avila, Juanita and Vito McCormick, Judy and Babe Hicks (and family) The Guajardo family, the Vidaurri families and a host of others far too numerous to report.

We welcome Gabriela to Marktown and wish the them many years of happiness together.

A View Into The Past

Scrub-a-dub-dub just luv those laundry tubs!

Someone recently asked me if there were any aspects of the original Marktown features that I did not think merit preservation. Anyone who has ever talked to me knows that answer. YES, and the original laundry tubs are obviously one of them.

There were a number of elements that architect Howard Shaw used in virtually all of his residential projects. From a service and convenience standpoint pantries and laundry tubs are obviously on that list. Whether it was large 30,000 square foot homes in Lake Forest or modest worker homes in Marktown, laundry tubs and pantries were included in both.

Back when Marktown was built there was only one way to do the laundry and that was by hand. One side was for the soapy water while the other side was for rins-

ing. In the summer months the laundry was hung outside on clothes lines while in the winter it was hung to dry in the basement.

The original laundry tubs are great if you still have them. One of the problems lies in the fact that drain assemblies are no longer available.

If you ever have to replace your laundry tubs don't attempt to carry the old ones out of the basement. They are 1" thick soap stone and they are really heavy. A sledge hammer will be needed to remove the tubs.

You see, I don't think everything from the past has to be restored. Just the important things!



Mayor Pabey Swears In Redevelopment Commission



Left to right: Mayor George Pabey, Redevelopment Commission members Paul Myers, Thomas Frank, Deidrol Buggs and Joe Johnson. Also being sworn in was Jack Fogleman of the East Chicago Housing Commission.

At 1:00 PM on Friday, May 13, 2005, four of the five members of the East Chicago Redevelopment Commission were sworn in. The commission was established under the authority provided by state statute and primarily oversees Federal funding utilized for the redevelopment of East Chicago.

Past projects of the commission included the construction and expansion of many of the community centers throughout East Chicago.

In Marktown they were responsible for the 1980s park renovation and the early phases of the street improvement project begun in 1990.