



# MARKTOWN UPDATE

A publication of the Marktown Preservation Society

May 2004

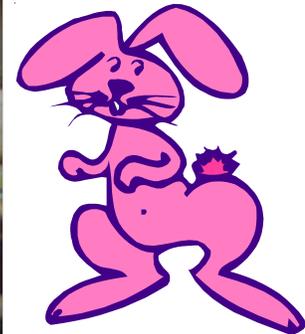
## MARKTOWN EASTER EGG HUNT A GREAT SUCCESS!

The children of Marktown were once again treated to their annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 10th at the Little Park on Pine Avenue. While the event was sponsored by the Marktown Women's Club it was once again the usual worker bees who made the event possible. Everyone knows who the three worker bees are so we won't list their names now. They were there two weeks early to pick up the baskets and make sure that each was filled with all of those goodies that make Easter special for the children of Marktown. They even got there early that day to set things up.

Kim Rodriguez held her annual bake sale on the day of the Easter Egg Hunt. Added to her usual baked goods this year were beautiful hand made Easter egg wreaths trimmed with ribbons and candy.

Special thanks goes to all of the ladies that

made this event special and also to those who contributed to this project. Javier Madrigal, Paul Myers, 5th District Councilman Adrian Santos, Senator Sam Smith, the Gray's and a good number of other Marktown residents all answered the request for donations



of candy for the event. When the ladies realized that they were still going to be short, Marktown's own Dan McArdle came to the rescue with the much needed cash donation and some really great Easter baskets that helped to make the event a success once again.

## MARKTOWN HISTORY DETAILED IN NEW PUBLICATION

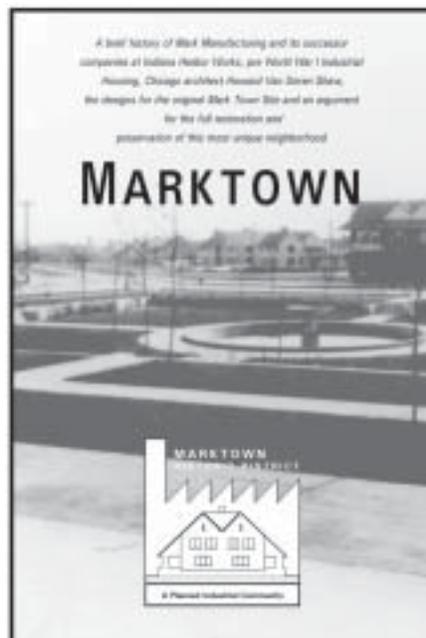
Over the past year Marktown Update has published a series of articles in reference to the history of the Marktown Historic District. We are very pleased to announce that with the assistance of the City of East Chicago, ISG Indiana Harbor Works, Safety Kleen, and the East Chicago Public Library that all of the articles have been professionally reprinted in an outstanding new booklet simply titled **Marktown**.

The 20+ page booklet includes a brief history of Mark Manufacturing and its successor companies at Indiana Harbor Works, pre World War I Industrial Housing, Chicago architect Howard Van Doren Shaw, the designs for the original Mark

Town Site and an argument for the full restoration, renovation and preservation of this most unique neighborhood.

The booklet is a part of the East Chicago Library's ongoing series of historical booklets which detail the history of this great city.

While the primary distribution of the booklet will be through the East Chicago Public Library, it will also be hand delivered to all of the residents of the Marktown Historic District and it will be made available at the Lake County Visitor's & Convention Bureau's Lake County Welcome Center on Kennedy Avenue and 180/94. Look for your copy in your mail box soon.



## **Marktown On Video And Now On DVD**

With interest in Marktown having once again been spurred on by the WTTW special **South of Chicago: Suburbs, Steel Mills, Shoreline** we thought it time to go through our archives and record the video histories of our community that are on file at the Marktown Preservation Society. While we are aware of a couple of tapes that we do not have copies of, the list of what we do have is still quite impressive and as we have seen, it's growing annually.

The oldest video record of Mark Manufacturing Co. comes to us from the Mark family and is a VHS tape of an original 16MM movie. It is titled **Steel Plant at Indiana Harbor, Indiana**. While it is very a short tape it does show the Chicago Dock and Dredge company using early steam driven equipment to drive piles and back fill the lake for the mill.

One of the earliest TV programs on Marktown that we have is titled **John Drury in Marktown** and was produced by WGN-TV in January 1981. The renovation of the Marktown Parks had begun and Frank Perrin, Alma Smith, Frank Bednar and Jose Cruz were all interviewed for the program.

The 1990 East Chicago Library exhibition titled *"Marktown: The Architect, The Builder and The People"* brought a number of video programs to the forefront. In 1990 prior to the opening of the East Chicago Library exhibit United Cable and the E.C. Library produced a monthly program titled **Library Voice** which was hosted by Merry Barrackman. The interview was with Marktown Historian Paul Myers and detailed some of the items that would be included in the upcoming program.

As a part of the 1990 traveling exhibition the Marktown Preservation Society (MPS) produced a tape slide program that was eventually converted to video. It is titled **"Marktown: The Architect, The Builder and The People"** and is still a most viable program. When the MPS is asked to do a public lecture on Marktown this is usually the program shown.

Just after the exhibit opened Archibald McKinlay, in cooperation with Indiana University Northwest, produced a great program on Marktown in which Arch and Paul did much of the walking tour on video. The tape was well received. Today, it serves as a great reference to conditions in Marktown in 1990.

The Chicago Architectural Foundation asked the MPS to be the feature for their Wednesday Lunchtime Lecture on February 10, 1999. The pro-

gram was titled **The Designs of Howard Van Doren Shaw**. While the program covered much of Mr. Shaw's major work, it also included Marktown and provides an outstanding point of reference between Marktown and the other works of Mr. Shaw.

That same year the John G. Blank Center for the Arts in Michigan City hosted a major exhibition titled *"Frank Lloyd Wright and Colleagues: Indiana Works."* As a part of the exhibition a series of lectures were provided by noted historians including a granddaughter of Mr. Wright and Richard Guy Wilson of the University of Virginia. Paul Myers and the MPS presented a one hour slide program titled **"Marktown by Design"** which was very well received. The program examines the design and application of the English Garden City concepts as they relate to the Marktown Historic District.

May 22, 2003 found Paul Myers at the Merrillville studios of Comcast for an interview with Joe Gameztagle from Indiana University Northwest School of Business and Economics for a taping of **Intersection**. The program not only detailed the history of the Marktown Historic District, but more importantly, the economic viability and potential for the full restoration of Marktown in the near future.

We can add to this list the WFYI-Indianapolis program **"Across Indiana"** of May 24, 1993. This 30 minute program is aired in a number of states that border on Indiana. While the Marktown segment is only six minutes long, it is worth the effort to see Marktown referred to as the Brigadune of Industrial Housing rising from the mists of industry every few years.

One of the last tapes in the collection is the **"Marktown Community Center Ground Breaking Ceremony"** from Friday, April 11, 2003. This is by all means a ground breaking tape and while it does not provide any new or earth shattering information on our neighborhood, it does provide a most outstanding quote from Mayor Robert A. Pastrick: *"It's been said that Marktown is one of the best-kept secrets in East Chicago. Make no mistake that as we break ground here today, all of Lake County will come to know and appreciate Marktown, not only for its distinctive architecture, but also for its distinctive residents."*

Copies of most of the tapes are available from the MPS and we are currently working on having the tapes converted to DVD. Contact Paul Myers at 219-397-2239 for more information.

***We have but three choices; we can burn bridges, we can build bridges or we can restore bridges. Before we build or burn, let's work together to preserve those few precious bridges that we have. Marktown is but a bridge unto the past. Let's work together to restore it before it is too late!***

# AN ASSESSMENT OF THE REASSESSMENT

by Paul A. Myers

Before we get into the details of the informal appeal of the property assessment I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Marktown Preservation Society to express our thanks and appreciation for the overwhelming support of the property owners for all of their assistance in our appeal. At the opening conference of the informal hearing I was elated to find that 80% of the property owners had signed off authorizing the Marktown Preservation Society the authority to represent them in the informal appeals process. This was by far one of the key factors in correcting the gross over evaluation of our properties.

Over the past four months that I spent preparing the appeal I was greeted nearly every day by residents of Marktown who had either brought me photographs, property deeds, sales agreements or details of the problems that needed to be resolved on their particular property or properties. From early morning to late night telephone calls, and from neighbors stopping in on a regular basis to give me the documentation needed to make this appeal, each day brought us closer and closer to making our case.

There were three basic challenges before us in the appeals process. They were **1) dimensional problems** on the property cards, **2) conditional problems** which would directly affect the overall appraised value of the homes, and 3) a new factor in the assessed value, the **neighborhood factor**, which is based on what is referred to as "*an arm's length transaction*" of the sale price of the properties.

The dimensional problems were by far the easiest to resolve, after all there are basically only six floor plans in all of Marktown (not including the five homes added after 1950 and some room additions to the original homes.) To resolve any questions in reference to the dimensions of the homes we provided the appraisers with copies of the original blueprints for the 1917 Marktown homes.

There were also a number of garages which were either counted on two different lots or were in-

cluded in places where they either no longer or never did exist. This type of problem was very easy to correct in the appeals process.

The conditional factor is a multiplier which can reduce or increase the appraised (assessed) value of individual properties. Let me give you an example. If a home is listed in *fair condition*, it is depreciated by 50% of the replacement cost. If it is listed in *poor condition* it is depreciated 65%. Believe it or not, these were originally the only two conditions that the Marktown homes were listed as. The next level of depreciation by condition is *very poor*, in which the property is depreciated 85%.

What went wrong during the appraisal process

was that the conditional factor was determined by certified appraisers who never actually viewed the homes. Photographs of the properties had been taken by teams of data collectors and then reviewed at the offices in Schererville by the appraisers.

While it took some work, we were able to convince the appraisers that many of the conditional factors had to be changed and that yes, a number of the properties were in deed in very poor condition.

The last problem to resolve was in relation to the market value of the homes in 1998 and 1999, the two sample years on which this appraisal was to be based.

Thanks to the assistance of a good number of the property owners and our ability to purchase copies of virtually all of the mortgages and sales disclosure forms from the office of the Lake County Recorder, we were also able to drastically lower the neighborhood factor multiplier.

What does all of this mean to the property owners and tenants in Marktown? Quite simply, lower taxes for the owner occupied properties, and a more stable rent base for those who rent.

Once again, working together as a community with the Marktown Preservation Society and me leading the way, we have made a marked difference in the lives of those who have decided to make the Marktown Historic District their home.



***Just how much were our property taxes reduced? Our taxes may not have been reduced at all, but had we not WORKED TOGETHER they would have gone up by 300 to 400%! That's teamwork!***

# Memorial Day in Marktown A Proud History of Service to Our Nation

by Paul A. Myers

With the war in Iraq still on the minds of many of us, especially those with friends and family serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, we felt it only appropriate to take a look at some of those known to have served their nation in past conflicts and wars. As the Mark Town Site was being built the Great War or WWI as it would later be known was underway. A young Alfred Smith, husband to Marktown resident Alma Smith went off to defend this great nation. Exactly how many of the original residents of Marktown would serve in WWI has been lost in time. I do remember as a child hearing Mrs. Smith tell of her late husband's exploits and then showing family and friends a photo of him in his WWI National Guard uniform.

Mrs. Smith would remain in Marktown virtually the rest of her life, raising three sons, two of which would serve in World War II. During that war, Marktown was fully occupied with narry a vacant property anywhere. The call to arms was made the day after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. With only 217 homes in Marktown, over 120 young men and women would either volunteer or be drafted in order to secure the safety of this nation and to bring peace to the world once again.

In order to pay tribute to those who were in the military the residents of Marktown erected a flag pole and a sign board in the empty lot on the corner of the 600 block of Park Street at Dickey Road. The list of servicemen was a public display of support for those who served and a constant reminder that even little Marktown had a major stake in the war.

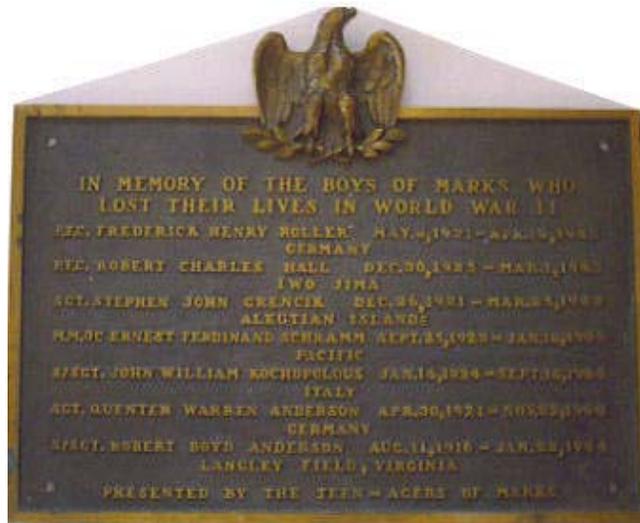
Following the war the "Teen-Agers of Marks" donated a bronze plaque in memory of the seven young men who would make the ultimate sacrifice

for their country and their neighborhood. Exactly where the plaque was originally displayed is unknown at this time, but hopefully one of our readers will send us a note as to where it had been displayed. About fifteen years ago we rediscovered the plaque and rescued it for future use or at least preservation here in Marktown.

Following World War II the residents of Marktown met on several occasions to welcome home their sons and daughters who served. The First Annual Dinner and Dance was held at the Mark Hotel. According to a very rare copy of the program for the event, the committee was chaired by Lawrence D. Hunt with Solvan Sylvester as Secretary and Treasurer and Roy Cornell as the assistant. One of the unique aspects of the printed program was that it listed the residents of Marktown, house by house. While the Marktown Preservation Society has a number of original photographs of the first dinner we will save them for a future issue of Marktown Update.

The Korean War would once again find the younger residents of Marktown enlisting in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Exactly how many would enlist is unknown. We do however know that a very young James Brunner would enlist in the Marine Corps and that he would return to Marktown where he would live until his death several years ago.

The Viet Nam War would again call on the young men and women from Marktown. While many would enlist during the war few were station in Viet Nam and most fortunately only one would make the ultimate sacrifice. A young John Edward Urbelis, son of Mr. & Mrs. Edward & Helen Urbelis was the only Marktown serviceman to lose his life in Vietnam.



*Following WWII the "Teen-Agers of Marks" donated a bronze plaque to commemorate the seven young men from Marktown who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and community. The plaque will hopefully be used once again at the New Marktown Community Center.*

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

## Mark Community Veterans OF WWII

Ackers, Edwin	Hall, Robert *	Mullally, James
Anton, Dorothy Mae	Heimerl, Robert George	Nolan, William
Anderson, Quenter *	Healy, Carl	O'Hara, James
Adnerson, Boyd *	Heathcote, Cy	Paulson, George
Barsich, John	Hendy, Ruth	Paulson, Louis
Bell, Charles	Higgins, Lawrence	Paulson, Edward
Benson, Reginald	Hunt, Dorothy	Paulson, Bernard
Bolin, Robert	Hunt, Walter	Pollack, Frank
Branderburg, Don	Holland, Howard	Poskins, Elinor
Broadhurst, Frank	Holland, Richard	Pry, James
Brownlee, Lewis Jr.	Ide, Clifford	Pry, David
Brabbs, William Jr.	Johnson, Allen	Rappenecker, Edward
Bruner, Margaret	Johnson, Bud L.	Reid, Thomas
Burrell, Robert	Kilander, H.	Roller, Frederick *
Burd, Robert	Kinkade, Joseph	Rohl, William
Carroll, William	Klobofski, Cecil	Rogers, Paul
Christman, Harry, Jr.	Klobofski, Wm.	Scott, Donald
Christman, Harry, Sr.	Klobofski, Joseph	Schmidt, Russell
Clark, John Jr.	Klosky, Clarence	Sides, Bert
Clippenger, Glen	Kochopolus, John	Shy, Russell
Conlee, Robert	Kochopolus, Kenneth	Skager, Philip
Conlee, William	Kochopolus, Nick	Small, ALbert
Cooney, Vernon	Kolina, John	Small, Tomas
Crane, Robert	Lain, Merle	Smith, Alfred
Detterline, Alvin	Lepley, Edward	Smith, Thomas
Deiotte, Edward	Luttringer, Edward	Smyth, Delray
Deiotte, James	Luttringer, William	Stewart, Alexander
Deiotte, Lawrence	Lynch, Hartland	Stockhans, Fred
Dewey, Charles	Lynch, John Wesley	Strohm, Donald
Dunlap, Leland	Lynott, Thomas	Strohm, William
Dubec, Frank	McAnlly, Charles	Stolle, William
Dubec, J.	McArdle, Richard	Stoner, Celo
Dudzienski, Walter	McCann, Andrew	Schramm, Fred Jr.
Galloway, Robert	McCuskey, Lorraine	Taylor, Kenneth
Galbraith, John	McDaniel, Rufus	Weherle, George
Grant, James	McDaniel, Harold	White, David
Glover, Edward	McNeill, Joseph	Wickenden, Dustin
Gregory, Robert	Millman, George	Wier, Robert
Grencik, Steven Jr.	Myers, Philip	Wielke, Walter
Goencik, Steven, Jr.	Morrison, William	
Hazel, Thomas	Mullally, Roy	

\* Deceased prior to 1946

This list was first published in the program for the "First Annual Dinner and Dance for Mark Community Veteran's." The event was held at the Mark Hotel in 1945.



*Albert Smith shown here in his WWI Army uniform would serve in the Great War while his wife Alma stayed at home and worked in the mill.*

Born on January 1, 1948 Cpl. John E. Urbelis died in action on November 1, 1968 just before the fall of Saigon.

A young Jeff Brown from Grove Street would also serve in View Nam. Jeff would often say that he loved to do to things: "shoot guns and fly." In Viet Nam he had the opportunity to do both as he was a gunner on a helicopter. Jeff returned home from Viet Nam after at least two tours of duty there. He went on to become a commercial helicopter pilot and lived in Marktown with his parents until his most untimely death in a helicopter accident in Wisconsin.

Alan "Sparky" Burrell, the eldest son of Marcie and Allen Burrell of Prospect Street and Spring Street would make the U.S. Air Force his career. Sparky retired a number of years ago and still lives in Henderson, Nevada near where he was stationed.

A young Tom McShane, the only son of Jean and Bill McShane formerly of Spring Street would

also make the U.S. military his home. Colonel Thomas McShane is now a senior military attorney and has served as a judge in military courts virtually around the world. He would serve in Desert Storm in the early 1990's and is currently stationed at the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania where he is instructing military law to senior officers and staff.

While a number of other young men from Marktown would serve in the military in the late 1960's and early 1970's none would make it a career. Gary Camplin, Frank Perrin and Charles Tarpley to name but a few.

But what of today? Marktown still sends its young men and women into harms way in the defense of this great nation. As we mentioned last month, Jenna Gray of Prospect Street is currently in the U.S. Air Force and is stationed at Diego Garcia where she is servicing B1 bombers as an aircraft



*A young Fredrick (Fritz) Roller shown here on leave with his mother Mrs. Roller. Fritz would later make the ultimate sacrifice in Germany.*

***Unless History Lives In The Present It Has No Future***

mechanic.

Rosa Gonzalez has three sons in the military at the present time. Fernarno Gonzalez is currently at the Naval School of Health Science in San Diego, California and will be going to Iraq in June. His brother Rudy Gonzalez is with the U.S. Marines and has already spent his year in Iraq. Their brother Alberto Gonzalez is in the U.S. Army and is currently stationed in San Pedro, California. Three young men form Marktown, all from one family and all serving our nation and our neighborhood in the U.S. military.

We pay homage to all of the young men and women of the Marktown Historic District who have in the past, still are or will serve in armed forces in defense of this great nation. We hope that our readers will remember each and every one of them this Memorial Day and every day of each year. May those who gave their lives in defense of this great nation be remembered in our community forever.



*Above: On the left is a young Jimmy Holzbach with our own Ruth Ann (Stolle) Pastrick in front of the Mark Community Servicemen's Monument.*



*In the early part of the war the residents of Marktown erected a sign and flag pole to give recognition to those who served in WWII.*

### **THE YOUNG MEN OF MARK WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES DURING WORLD WAR II**

**P.F.C. Frederick Henry. Roller**

May 8, 1921 - April 14, 1945 Died in Germany

**P.F.C. Robert Charles Hall**

Dec. 30, 1925 - March 1, 1945 Died at Iwo Jima

**Sgt. Stephen John Grecnik**

Dec. 26, 1921 - Mar. 25, 1944 Died in the Aleutian Islands

**M.M.3C Ernest Ferninand Schramm**

Sept. 25, 1923 - Jan. 18, 1946 Died in the Pacific

**S/Sgt. John William Kochopolous**

Jan. 14, 1924 - Sept. 18, 1944 Died in Italy

**Sgt. Quenten Warren Anderson**

April 30, 1921 - Nov. 22, 1944 Died in Germany

**S/Sgt. Robert Boyd Anderson**

Aug. 11, 1916 - Jan,22 1944

Died in training at Langley Field, Virginia

*If we missed someone in any of our lists, please contact Paul Myers at (219) 397-2239.*

**Let's Work Together To Preserve Marktown's Unique History  
And Architecture For Future Generations**

## A note from a reader!

Immediately following the first telecast of the WTTW program **South of Chicago: Suburbs, Steel Mills, Shoreline** in March of this year, we began receiving a number of e-mails, standard mail and telephone calls from people all over the Midwest who either wanted more information on Marktown or who lived here at one time or another. One of the early letters came from a prior resident who lived in Marktown between 1921 and 1926! In response to his initial correspondence we sent him a set of Marktown Updates and a packet of information on our community. We are very pleased to provide you with his second letter which was in response to the items we sent to him.

Dear Mr. Myers:

Your letter and the package of materials on Marktown have been received. Thank you so much for sending them. It is reassuring to learn how vital a community Marktown is, and to learn the interest the people who live there exhibit.

I would be happy to meet with you, and if you

would be agreeable to make the long journey to visit, I would enjoy seeing you and talking with you. Because of age and health restrictions I am unable to make the long journey.

A couple of things caught my eye immediately. First the architect, Howard Van Doren Shaw. During the Second World War I was stationed for a time at Fort Sheridan which is immediately south of Lake Forest, so I am familiar with their Market Square. Then the landscaper, Jens Jensen. We for many years owned a summer cottage on Wisconsin's Door County peninsula. A piece of property he owned there is now called The Clearing. The Clearing is now used for weekly seminars on silversmithing, writing, painting, wood carving and many more subjects, and structured more like Elderhostel programs. If you should ever have the opportunity to vacation in Door County I think you would enjoy The Clearing.

If you would wish to make the journey to see us please let us know. We are generally available. Again my thanks for sending all of those materials.

Very truly yours,  
Fred Miles



## New Marktown Community Center Construction Update

As we reported last month, the plans for the New Marktown Community Center have gone back to the drawing boards for some last minute revisions. From what we now understand, there has been very little changed in the floor plan of the building. Yes, the basketball gymnasium has been reduced in size and the exterior bathrooms have been removed altogether. Big deal. I think we can all live without those items.

I was somewhat surprised to hear that the offices that were so badly needed have not yet been added to the plan. Hopefully, between now and the day the center is actually completed we hope that someone out there will understand the need to have a place for family counseling and referral programs.

Back to the subject of the start date. Once the plans are completed for the redesign of the building they will go to the Parks Board for approval and then it will once again go out for bid. As we know from the past, they will have to advertise the project in the local news papers and then make the plans available to the contractors for bids. It will be out for bid for at least thirty days and then the bids will be received at a public meeting. Following the official opening of the bids the Parks Board will probably announce the recipient about thirty days later.

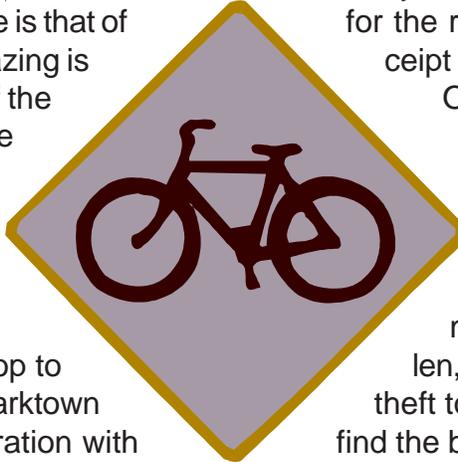
So, when can we expect the construction on the new center to begin? At the earliest I would say about late July of this year, if we are very, very lucky. Let's work together to make this happen.

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

## Bicycle Registration Provided For Marktown Residents

Spring is in the air and as it has been for the past 85 years, bicycles are the mode of transportation for the younger people from our neighborhood. One of the problems that we and many other neighborhoods have is that of bicycle theft. What is most amazing is the fact that the vast majority of the thefts in this neighborhood are being carried out by people in this neighborhood. That's right, children in Marktown are stealing bicycles from other children in Marktown. Go figure.

In order to help put a stop to these unwarranted thefts the Marktown Preservation Society in cooperation with the East Chicago Police Department is beginning a bicycle registration program in Marktown. The program is simple. The child or parent can bring the bicycle to the Old Community Center on Monday afternoon from 4-5 PM. We will need the name, address and telephone of the child and parent.



We will record the serial number of the bicycle along with the other information. A special tag will be placed on the vertical brace of the bicycle that supports the seat. The stub for the registration form serves as a receipt of the registration for the parent.

Once the registration forms have been completed, a copy will be made for retention at the Community Center and then the original will be sent to the East Chicago Police Department. When and if a bicycle is stolen, the parents will need to report the theft to the Police Department. If they find the bicycle in Marktown or anywhere else in the area, the parents will not only be able to reclaim the bicycle, but equally as important, will be able to prosecute the thieves. This is what we call working together to resolve the problems in Marktown. If we work together, this too will work for all of us. If you have any questions about this please call Paul Myers at 397-2239.

## Marktown Community Center Now Handicap Accessible

Did you know that one of the key people responsible for the passage of the American Disabilities Act (ADA) was an East Chicago educator by the name of William Passmore? Well it is true. Mr. Passmore taught at Washington High School and was not only a paraplegic, but a nationally advocate for the disabled.

How does this fit into Marktown you ask? Well it is quite simple. The ADA requires that all public buildings be handicap accessible and that all residents, handicapped or not have the right to the same services.

This past year Ms Lourdes Munoz-Hicks, the noted ADA advocate in Marktown, approached the local election official and asked if the current Marktown Community Center could be made handicap accessible. The response is exactly what you would expect from the political types: "You just give

*me the names and address of the people who are in wheel chairs and I will get them an absentee ballot application."*

If you know Ms Munoz-Hicks, then you know that just wasn't going to work. She began

by writing a letter to the Lake County Election Board requesting that the building be made accessible to all. Her letter was forwarded to the Parks & Recreation Department and the next thing Lourdes knew she was getting a telephone call from the Office of the Mayor telling her that it will be resolved immediately. They were right. It was, and as a result of her actions the Old Marktown Community Center is now handicap accessible, not only for the elections, but for all of the activities at



the Center. We would also like to point out the New Marktown Community Center is designed in accordance with the ADA.

***Collecting information is the first step towards wisdom.  
Sharing information is the first step towards community.***

## Street Project On Hold For Another Year

Last year we reported that the Marktown Street Improvement project that was begun in 1989 would be completed in the summer of 2004. Well, don't look now but that isn't going to happen. Even though we were told by the engineers that the construction trucks for the new community center could come through the park from Pine Avenue, it appears that someone has changed the plan and Spruce Street will just have to wait at least one more year before it is completed.

For those of you who were not here when the street project began, Paul Myers led the way on the project and worked with the entire community and the architects to see the designs completed and approved. If you really wanted to see the street done this year, I guess you will just have to just wait another year or two for this great project to be completed. It is most unfortunate that projects like this get delayed, but from our perspective, we're just glad it is getting done at all. You see, when we began the project in 1989, all of the plans had to be presented



to Marktown residents at public meetings. Unlike the New Community Center project, everyone was given the opportunity to express their opinion as to how the streets were to be designed. After we came up with the final plan and discussed it at several public meetings, we then had to walk a petition door to door and to every property owner, even if they didn't all live in Marktown. The end result was that when we were done 100% of the property owners agreed with the plan that was presented.

What was most unfortunate was that after the approval was given and the first street to be completed was selected by the Director of Redevelopment, one of our dear residents walked a second petition through on just that first street and changed the plan for the entire project behind our backs. If you would like to see the original petition and what had been approved and subsequently changed, give Paul a call at 397-2239. He'd also be more than glad to tell you who sabotaged this great project!

## Marktown Lectures and Tours in Great Demand

These past few years have been very busy here in Marktown. I don't know exactly what is causing the change, but it is happening. People are more responsive to doing the right thing and for the first time in many years I see the absolute possibility of this neighborhood being fully restored in the next few years.

I suppose it can be attributed in part to nationally broadcast television programs like the Across Indiana program and the new WTTW programs that included Marktown.

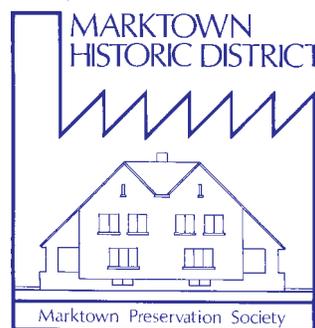
Following the debut of the **South of Chicago** program I received a number of e-mails, snail mails and telephone calls. The University of Illinois and University of Chicago have both sent graduate students from their architectural programs down and are planning on making Marktown a part of their curriculum in relation to city and neighborhood planning.

In the process of all of the telephone calls and the added notoriety, we have also been

asked to give a number of lectures to community groups and business officials throughout the area, not to mention the fact that we are also going to be included in the actual classes being taught at several universities here in the Midwest.

While we have usually had a three or four tours scheduled each summer, this year we are already up to eight tours and none of them are return visits from groups that have been here in the past. Marktown is ready. We are ready to talk about historic preservation and how we, as a neighborhood can all work together to make this a true National Landmark. While code enforcement is important, equally important is that the architectural fabric of the neighborhood be preserved so that future generations of Americans and Marktowners can appreciate our past.

It is time for all of us to work together to make Marktown once again worthy of our heritage and a better, cleaner and safer for all of us to live and to raise our families.



**Need to e-mail us? You can contact Paul at [pmyers@eastchicago.com](mailto:pmyers@eastchicago.com)**