



MARKTOWN UPDATE

A publication of the Marktown Preservation Society

May 2005

Easter Celebrated in Marktown

For more than eighty-five years Easter has been celebrated in Marktown and for decades our public celebration has been what we consider a "Traditional Easter Egg Hunt." 2005 began what many hope will be a new tradition in our neighborhood. When the usual politically motivated Easter Egg Hunt was moved forward one week it made way for something new, something special for the children and adults of our community.

The Freedom Church, under the direction of Pastor Scott Marciniak, took a bold step forward and held an Easter Outreach and Candy Hunt in the Old Marktown Park at the pavilion on Pine Avenue.

The attendance for the event was outstanding. But the event wasn't restricted to candy, eggs and baskets. The youth group from the church put on a wonderful dance program to what I think was Hip-Hop music. One of the church members got the kids involved in singing while other church members prepared the four roped off

areas where the candy would be placed. There wasn't the usual rush for candy at this event.

What made the event special for the children and adults who participated was the Passion Play narrated by Pastor Marciniak. While Marktown has had Christmas programs which depicted the Nativity this was probably the very first time that an event of this nature was held in our community and it was very well received.

Following the Passion Play the kids filled their baskets and bags with enough candy to keep them wired for days to come. A drawing was held for those who took the time to register and a number of very nice Easter Baskets were given to the children of our community.

There were no politics, favoritism or any of the usual problems that we have seen in recent years. It was Easter being celebrated as it should be: as a religious holiday for Christians in a very religious context. We thank Pastor Marciniak for Marktown in mind.



Children from the Freedom Church youth group go through their moves in but one of many dance presentations presented in Marktown on Saturday, March 26th.



Marktown children, divided into four age groups pick up candy as a part of the Freedom Church Easter celebration in the Marktown Historic District.

Easter Is Celebrated With Easter Eggs, But Do You Know Why?

For most residents of Marktown and the Christian world, Easter is a time for reflection. It is also a time for children, candy and yes, Easter Egg Hunts and Easter baskets filled with, yes, Easter Eggs. But did you ever wonder where the tradition of Easter Eggs came from?

The egg is nature's perfect package. It has, during the span of history, represented mystery, magic, medicine, food and omen. It is the universal symbol of Easter celebrations throughout the world and has been dyed, painted, adorned and embellished in the celebration of its special symbolism.

Before the egg became closely entwined with the Christian Easter, it was honored during many rite-of-Spring festivals. The Romans, Gauls, Chinese, Egyptians and Persians all cherished the egg as a symbol of the universe. From ancient times eggs were dyed, exchanged and shown reverence.

In Pagan times the egg represented the rebirth of the earth. The long, hard winter was over; the earth burst forth and was reborn just as the egg miraculously burst forth with life. The egg, therefore, was believed to have special powers. It was buried under the foundations of buildings to ward off evil; pregnant young Roman women carried an egg on their person to foretell the sex of their unborn children; French brides stepped upon an egg before crossing the threshold of their new homes.

With the advent of Christianity the symbolism of the egg changed to represent, not nature's rebirth, but the rebirth of man. Christians embraced the egg symbol and likened it to the tomb from which Christ rose.

Old Polish legends blended folklore and Christian beliefs and firmly attached the egg to the Easter celebration. One legend concerns the Virgin Mary. It tells of the time Mary gave eggs to the soldiers at the cross. She entreated them to be less cruel and she wept. The tears of Mary fell upon the eggs, spotting them with dots of brilliant color.

Another Polish legend tells of when Mary Magdalen went to the sepulchre to anoint the body of Jesus. She had with her a basket of eggs to serve as a repast. When she arrived at the sepulchre and uncovered the eggs, lo, the pure white shells had miraculously taken on a rainbow of colors.

Decorating and coloring eggs for Easter was the custom in England during the middle ages. The household accounts of Edward I, for the year 1290, recorded an expenditure of eighteen pence for four hundred and fifty eggs to be gold-leafed and colored for Easter gifts.

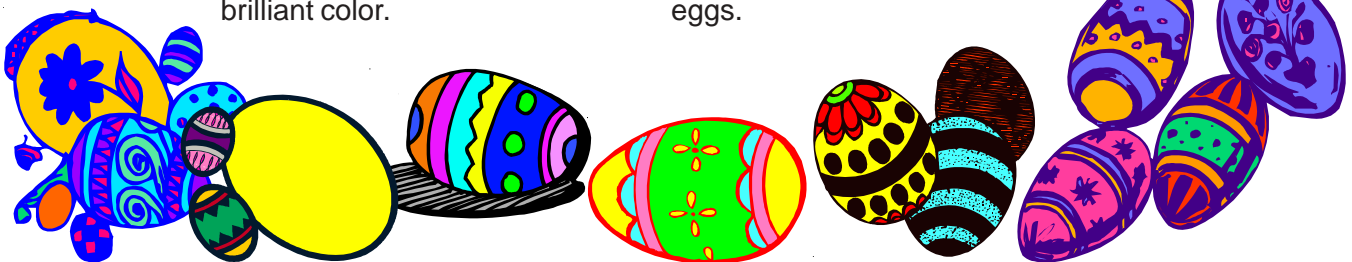
The most famous decorated Easter eggs were those made by the well-known goldsmith, Peter Carl Faberge. In 1883 the Russian Czar, Alexander, commissioned Faberge to make a special Easter gift for his wife, the Empress Marie.

The first Faberge egg was an egg within an egg. It had an outside shell of platinum and enameled white which opened to reveal a smaller gold egg. The smaller egg, in turn, opened to display a golden chicken and a jeweled replica of the Imperial crown.

This special Faberge egg so delighted the Czarina that the Czar promptly ordered the Faberge firm to design further eggs to be delivered every Easter. In later years Nicholas II, Alexander's son, continued the custom. Fifty-seven eggs were made in all.

Ornamental egg designers believe in the symbolism of the egg and celebrate the egg by decorating it with superb artistry. Some use flowers and leaves from greeting cards, tiny cherubs, jewels and elegant fabrics, braids and trims, to adorn the eggs. They are separated, delicately hinged and glued with epoxy and transparent cement, then when completed, they are covered with a glossy resin finish.

Although the omens and the mystery of the egg have disappeared today, the symbolism remains, and artists continue in the old world tradition of adorning eggs.



"Play Ball" Is Heard Once Again In Marktown

Spring is here and with it comes that traditional rite of spring: **Baseball and Softball**. Once again the Marktown Park is the home field for the Lady Cardinals, East Chicago Central High School's truly great girls fast pitch softball. As we noted last year, softball has been played in Marktown since the very first years that Marktown was established (1917).

The original ball field was at the intersection of Broad Street and Spruce Avenue with the 1st base line running along Broad Street. A home run usually resulted in a lost ball as the land across

129th street was a heavy marsh land.

Once again the Lady Cardinals will be sharing the field with the East Chicago Parks and Recreation Department softball leagues. While we have not seen the schedule, they usually play on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



In 2004 we announced our negotiations with USS and ISG for the donation of the parking lot adjacent to the softball field. We recently contacted USS to find out the status of that project. To begin with the attorney who was handling the project is now working for a USS company in Hungary. Add

to this the fact that ISG is now Mittal Steel and we have yet another problem. We understand that Mittal may be selling the land to USS as opposed to just renting it. As soon as we know exactly what is happening we will let you know in Marktown Update!

Marktown Community Center To Get Facelift

Let's cut to the chase. We are not going to get the proposed new Marktown Community Center at any time in the near future. No - we did not do anything wrong. No, it isn't Mayor Pabey's fault either. The funds just are not there and with the State of Indiana and Gary Mayor Scott King both attempting to get their hands on as much of the gaming revenue as possible the funds may not be available for years to come.

Despite the uninformed and most political opinions of some, no one that I know of from Marktown went to the city officials and suggested they not build the new center. In fact, several months ago right after Mayor Pabey was sworn in, I was asked to provide the City Controller's Office with the bid results from the December 2003 bid openings. Along with this I took him a set of the original three page drawings that first appeared in Marktown Update in December

2002.

Yes, I said this when the new community center was being planned and I will say it again: **"We need to finish the 1990 street project BEFORE we move onto ANY new major capital improvement plan in Marktown."** Unlike the Community Center project, everyone in Marktown participated in the planning of the street restoration project. Everyone! It was not a private committee who made the decisions on the project.

Spruce Avenue is the only street left to be completed and given the fact that to do so will require that the NIPSCO service be moved from the center of the sidewalk, this is going to be a relatively expensive project. NO we do not want them to just black top the street. It needs to be completed in the same style and materials as the other Marktown Street. Hopefully this project will be completed

later this year or early next year.

So, just what needs to be done to the Marktown Community Center? Probably a great deal less than what some people would like to think. How about this for a check list:

- new ceiling and lights
- new tile floor
- bathroom renovations
- new bathroom doors
- building exit doors that open out
- properly repair/replace the ramp
- improved storage facilities
- a partition between the two areas
- establish a new computer area
- landscaping and sidewalk (at ramp)
- possibly an additional wing

Let's not make this another one of those political head butting contests or a show of force as to who represents this neighborhood. Let's all work together for the betterment of all of the residents of Marktown. Let's make Marktown a better, cleaner and safer place to live and to raise our families! *Paul A. Myers, Editor*

IN MEMORY OF PFC LUIS A. PEREZ

I've neighbors that live just down the street from my home, but then again, this is Marktown and everyone lives just down the street. They are a quiet couple: hard working parents and grandparents, members of one of those marvelous Latino extended families that in this day and age is becoming so rare.

They've raised their children and now watch their grandchildren grow and move on. This past year one of their grandchildren, Luis Perez, followed in his father's footsteps. He became as he has often called them *"a green man like my father."* No, I'm not talking about the Incredible Hulk. I am talking about a soldier, a defender of freedom and liberty, a member of the United States Army.

It is what he wanted to do since he was but a child watching his father don his military uniform, squaring it away and standing tall before reporting back to base.

When it was young Louis's turn to enlist, when he was but eighteen years old, he did what he knew was right for him. He enlisted in the U.S. Army to defend the freedoms of others and to follow in his father's footsteps.

That military service was cut short. His dream of making a career of the army was cut short, as short as his life when he as many others before and far too many after, made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of the liberties and freedoms that we far too often take for granted.

He served not to just defend our freedoms. No, he went one step beyond that. He served so that a people, a nation that he did not know might



PFC Luis A. Perez
born August 20, 1985
died on August 26, 2004
in defense of his country while
attempting to bring freedom and
liberty to an oppressed people.
May we always remember the brave
young men and women from Mark-
town who serve in the Armed Forces
of the United States of America.

someday realize those freedoms. He died so others might be free from oppression.

When young Luis enlisted, his grandparents our neighbors, put a flag pole in the back yard and another flag on one of those brackets on their front porch. They did so in support of Luis, the grandson that they so loved. The grandson that they were so proud of.

On August 26, 2004 Luis Perez made the ultimate sacrifice for his country when he was mortally wounded on foreign soil. This neighborhood was in shock. The family was devastated. The entire city mourned. Municipal flags were flown at half staff for thirty days and a mayoral proclamation was put to paper and signed, sealed and placed upon the pile of memorials to this brave young man.

I remember clearly seeing my neighbor, our friend go to the flag pole in his back yard with tears in his eyes and with comfort and solace being offered by family members. He slowly lowered the U.S. flag to half staff. He stepped back, looked up and saluted. As his arm came back to his side he nearly collapsed into the arms of his family. They cried. The city wept. The nation mourned.

It is now nine months later, and while the municipal flags are now flying high upon their staffs and poles, our neighbors flag still flies at half staff in memory of PFC Luis A. Perez and all of the other brave young men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of this nation in order to bring the liberties and freedoms to those who have never known the pleasure of the things we have so often taken for granted.

Lest We Forget - Memorial Day 2005 In Marktown

Monday, May 30th marks a day of remembrance to all of those who have given their life in defense of this great country. As this is a nation that is still engaged in military action on foreign soil, it is also a day to pay tribute to those who go in harms way. It is time to once again renew our support to the young men and women from Marktown and East Chicago.

While the children of Marktown have been writing to a number of military personnel serving in Iraq, we need to pay particular attention to those from this community who currently serve in the military and to their families who reside in our neighborhood. Whether they actually serve in a war zone or they are stationed elsewhere around the world or even in the United States, each and every person from Marktown who is currently serving in the military deserves our unwavering support.

We must also pay tribute to those brave young men who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of this great nation. Our prayer is that we never have to add another name to this list.

THE YOUNG MEN OF MARKTOWN WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN DEFENSE OF THEIR COUNTRY

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

VIET NAM

Cpl. John Edward Urbelis

January 1, 1948 - November 1, 1968

DESERT STORM - IRAQ

PFC Luis A. Perez

August 20, 1985 - August 26, 2004

March 19, 2005



Dear Marktown Center,

I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to all of the fine kids at Marktown Center. I received some great letters and drawings from many young kids expressing their thanks and prayers for all here in Iraq. It's a very nice feeling we all have here knowing there is plenty of support from family, friends and community.

Please tell your students that we are doing just fine. We work hard everyday to help the country of Iraq and the soldiers are doing a fantastic job. It looks like the rainy season is just about behind us. Next is the long hot summer. Please don't worry about us too much because we train hard to do our job just like your kids should study hard to do a good job on their tests and future.

Please tell your kids and young adults that the next time they pass a US Flag to give it a salute for all of us here in Iraq.

Sincerely,

Jose Cuadra, 1st LT, EN Commanding

A Postcard From The Front: U.S. Serviceman Writes Home

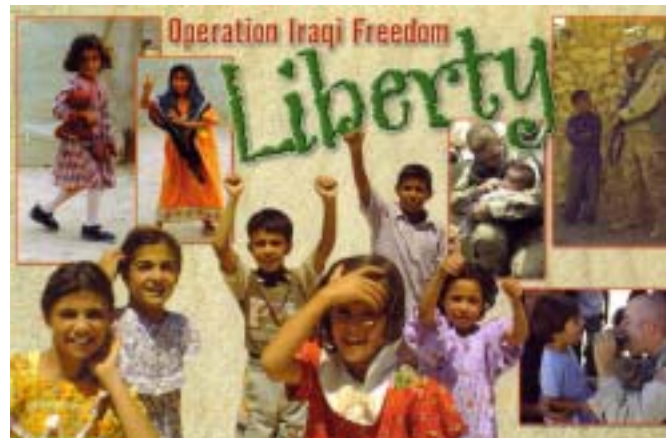
The children from Marktown have not only been writing to the servicemen in Iraq, but they have been getting very positive responses from them. We thought we might share another postcard from the front with our readers.

Dear Ivonne Perez.

I received your picture of the lion and mail box you colored. A very nice picture, Thanks. We are doing our best to help the Iraqi people. But when the little kids smile and wave at us, it can make our day. We are doing our best. Thanks for your support.

Sgt. K. Littlejohn

113th Eng. Btn. in Iraq



Marktown Is For The Birds! (And Bird Watchers)

Marktown isn't really for the birds, but it is a great place for bird watchers. Yes, we have all of the usual birds either visit our neighborhood or nest here in the summer months, but we also have a good number of birds that are a bit more unusual.

Robins, **Starlings** and various types of **sparrows** can be seen all summer long. Add to this **Cardinals** and **Bluejays** in Marktown and you have at least a beginning list of birds to watch for.

In the summer of 2004 we spotted a **Black-Crowned Night Heron** roosting in a pine tree on Broad Street. According to "**The Birds of Indiana**" by Russell E. Mumford and Charles E. Keller, the Black-Crowned Night-Heron was a regular migrant in 1900 and bred locally in some numbers in the northern part of the state. In 1979 the status of this species was changed to being a rare migrant visitor to our state.

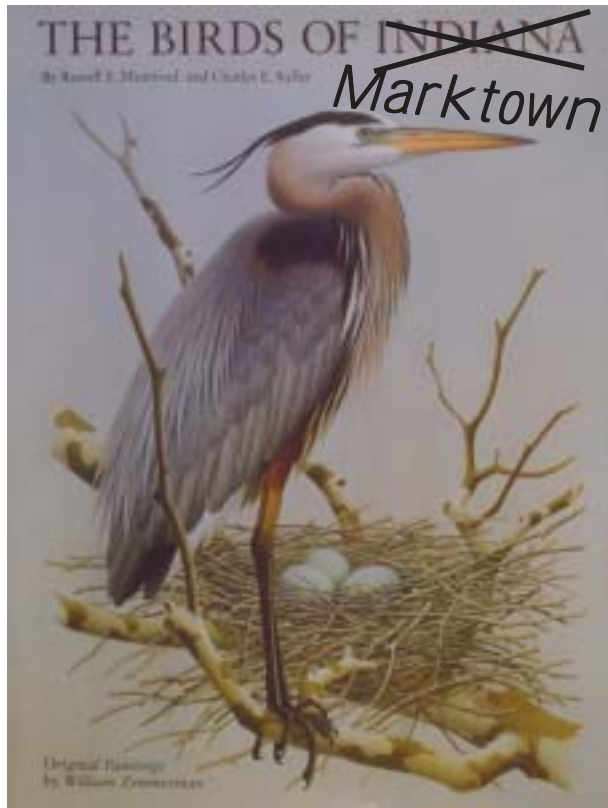
About two decades or so ago, **Peregrine Falcons** were reintroduced into the Calumet Region and a number of them actually nest in the expansion joints of the Cline Avenue bridge and in the higher areas of the surrounding steel mills. If you watch the tops of the utility poles near the park you can occasionally spot one either resting or looking for a meal.

This past winter, while snow was still on the ground, an **American Kestrel** or **Sparrow Hawk** was spotted taking a mouse in a front yard. By the time a camera was found it had darted off again. It's distinct blue wings and crown with rust colored

breast, tail and back are not difficult to spot.

For those who have flower gardens mid to late summer will bring **Ruby Throated Hummingbirds** and several other species of hummingbirds to your yards.

In early spring and late fall we have had **Canadian Geese** landing in the parks and every few years pairs of **Mallard Ducks** have been known to either nest or at least stay a few days before



moving on.

While we have not had the famed **Red-Headed Woodpecker** nest in Marktown for a number of years, we have seen the **Northern Flicker** in sufficient numbers to know that they are nesting here somewhere. This large, brown woodpecker is often seen in the Marktown Park.

Black-Capped Chickadee and **Boreal Chickadee** can be spotted on a regular basis. Their off white bodies, gray back and black trimmed head are most distinctive.

For those of you who spot the more colorful birds this summer, the **Scarlet Tanager** should be at the top of your list. While the female is a muted green, the male has a bright red body and black wings. The **Northern Oriole** is also a frequent visitor to Marktown. The male has a bright orange body with black and white wings and a totally black head.

For those of you who think your neighbor's Canary has gotten out, you are probably wrong, as the **American Goldfinch** is also seen in our neighborhood on a regular basis. The male is a bright yellow with an orange bill and black cap and wings.

If you are looking for a little blue in your life you might spot the **Eastern Bluebird**. The breast of the male is a rust color while the majority of the body is a soft blue.

The **Gray Catbird** can also be seen in Marktown each summer. Its gray body is trimmed with a black cap and a section of brown just under the tail feathers.

We shouldn't take the birds for granted. While some like to feed the pigeons, their actual name is **Rock Dove**. Add to the list the **Ringed Turtle-Dove** and you will see that Marktown is a great place to view Mother Nature at her best.

To aid our residents in identifying the birds that visit our neighborhood the Marktown Preservation Society has donated a copy of **The Birds Of Indiana** to the Marktown Community Center. There are hundreds of different species of birds that visit our neighborhood each year. Let's make them at home in Marktown.

Parents Aiding Children & Adults Hosts Seminar

Saturday, March 26th once again brought guest lecturers and members of the community together for another educational opportunity offered by **Parents Aiding Children & Adults (PACA)**. No, this is not an organization dedicated to the betterment of the residents of Marktown. In fact, there

are not a great number of residents from our community that require **PACA's** regular or routine assistance.

The organization is dedicated to those with physical and mental restrictions or challenges, and the seminars are intended to assist them and their families in

their daily lives.

Participating in the seminar were the Lupus Foundation, Breaking New Ground, Social Security Determination Bureau and Little League for Children of General Education & the Challenger Division.

PACA is headed by Lourdes Munoz-Hicks who resides in the Marktown Historic District. The seminar began at about 9 AM and while the actual open seminar concluded at about 1:30 PM, Mrs. Hicks stayed several hours counseling families in relation to their rights and the rights of their children in the educational process of public schools.

For additional information on **PACA**, please contact Mrs. Hicks directly at 545-4660. **PACA** will be conducting additional seminars from time to time and you might want to get on their mailing list!



Marktown Community Center Has *Gone Fishin'*

What do you do to keep children interested in the winter months? How about an aquarium complete with fish, plant life and sea shells? And so it was that Ms. Maria began a new project that involved all of the children of Marktown who wanted to participate.

Said Ms. Maria "Well, I don't think that the John G. Shedd Aquarium will be coming down to identify any of the one of a kind fish. One of the nice things is that we don't have to feed them and we never have to clean the aquarium."

Each of the children got to design their own fish and each one is a work of art. Projects like this do several things for the children of Marktown or any neighborhood. It permits them to explore their creative talents and it gives them a feeling of community and belonging. They get to see their project

in direct relation to their neighbors and piers.

What will be next for the children of Marktown? The sky is the limit, literally! Maybe we will see a Marktown tree complete with hand drawn and colored birds? Maybe we will find our own zoo

complete with animals we are all familiar with, and possibly, like in the aquarium we may find all new species unique to the imaginations of the children of Marktown.

Want to get involved? Sign up your children for the fun filled activities in Marktown!



A View Into The Past - Coal Chutes In Marktown

Did you ever wonder why those concrete raised areas are adjacent to all of the original 1917 homes in Marktown? They're coal chutes used to get coal from the street into the basement.



ning horizontal as opposed to drywall or plywood, then chances are it is one of the original coal bins. They are always located on the street side of the basement and in direct alignment with the coal chute on the outside of the basement. When we began the street

As we reported last month about the original coal heated furnaces and hot water heaters we thought it only proper to discuss the coal chutes and bins in Marktown homes. If your home has a wooden walled room in the basement that is made out of really old lumber with boards run-

improvement project in 1990, all of the coal chutes were to be maintained, but filled with concrete to prevent seepage and illegal access to your home. Few if any of the original cast iron covers still exist, but we did manage to find two that were salvaged.

A Note From A Visitor At Our Web Page



An email from Myrna Johnson Quinn:
Dear Paul,

I thought you might enjoy a pair of photos titled "**Mommy... there's a moose in my pool!**" I hope you enjoy these photos as much as I have enjoyed receiving Marktown Update. Ross, Rita and I all lived in Marktown. Our parents, George and Bess Johnson, owned the Market Square building from 1927 until we sold the property in 1974 to George Michels. Mom and dad ran the store until about 1954 and then we leased it to several other families. The



Boileks purchased the store (business not building) in 1959 and ran it until it closed in the 1970's.

I married Donald Quinn and we moved to Alberta, Canada. Ross and Rita are twins. Rita married Joe Golassa from Whiting and she now lives in San Rafael, California. Ross married Edwardene Molson and they live in the house that she was born in there in Whiting.

I hope all goes well in Marktown and that people understand just how important that little neighborhood truly is. Myrna Johnson Quinn



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