

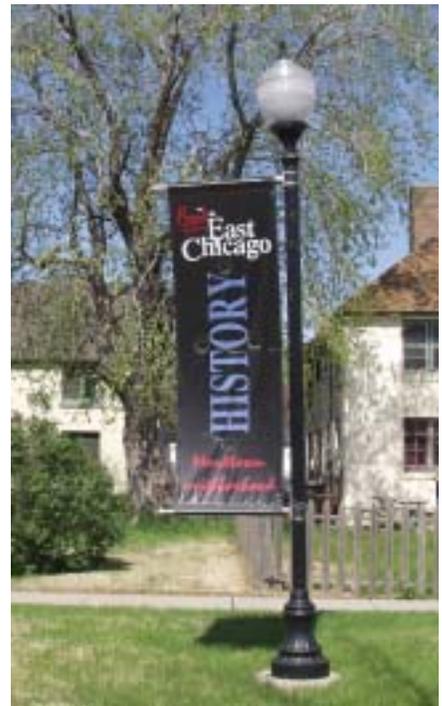


# MARKTOWN UPDATE

A publication of the Marktown Preservation Society

May 2007

## Signs Of Spring In The Marktown Historic District



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

# Memorial Day In Marktown: Lest WE Forget!

The average age of the military man is 19 years. He is a short haired, tight-muscled kid who, under normal circumstances is considered by society as half man, half boy. Not yet dry behind the ears, not old enough to buy a beer, but old enough to die for his country. He never really cared much for work and he would rather wax his own car than wash his father's; but he has never collected unemployment either.

He's a recent High School graduate; he was probably an average student, pursued some form of sport activities, drives a ten year old jalopy, and has a steady girlfriend that either broke up with him when he left, or swears to be waiting when he returns from half a world away. He listens to rock and roll or hip-hop or rap or jazz or swing and a 155 mm howitzer. He is 10 or 15 pounds lighter now than when he was at home because he is working or fighting from before dawn to well after dusk. He has trouble spelling, thus letter writing is a pain for him, but he can field strip a rifle in 30 seconds and reassemble it in less time in the dark. He can recite to you the nomenclature of a machine gun or grenade launcher and use either one effectively if he must. He digs foxholes and latrines and can apply first aid like a professional.

He can march until he is told to stop or stop until he is told to march. He obeys orders instantly and without hesitation, but he is not without spirit or individual dignity. He is self-sufficient.

He has two sets of fatigues: he washes one and wears the other. He keeps his canteens full and his feet dry. He sometimes forgets to brush his teeth, but never to clean his rifle.

He can cook his own meals, mend his own clothes, and fix his own hurts. If you're thirsty, he'll share his water with you; if you are hungry, his food. He'll even split his ammunition with you in the midst of battle when you run low.

He has learned to use his hands like weapons

and weapons like they were his hands. He can save your life - or take it, because that is his job. He will often do twice the work of a civilian, draw half the pay and still find ironic humor in it all.

He has seen more suffering and death than he should have in his short lifetime. He has stood atop mountains of dead bodies, and helped to create them. He has wept in public and in private, for friends who have fallen in combat and is unashamed. He feels every note of the National Anthem vibrate through his

body while at rigid attention, while tempering the burning desire to 'square-away' those around him who haven't bothered to stand, remove their hat, or even stop talking.

In an odd twist, day in and day out, far from home, he defends their right to be disrespectful. Just as did his Father, Grandfather, and Great-grandfather, he is paying the price for our freedom.

Beardless or not, he is not a boy. He is Our own Fighting Man that has kept this country free for over 200 years. He has asked nothing in return, except our friendship and understanding. Remember him, always, for he has earned our respect and admiration with his blood. And now we even have women over there in danger, doing their part in this tradition of going to War when our nation calls us to do so.

As you go to bed tonight, remember this image: a short lull, a little shade and a picture of loved ones in their helmets.

Prayer Wheel:

***"Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands.***

***Protect them as they protect us.***

***Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Amen."***

When you receive this, please stop for a moment and say a prayer for our ground troops in Afghanistan, sailors on ships, and airmen in the air, and for those in Iraq. Of all the gifts you could give a Soldier, Sailor or Airman, prayer is the very best one.

## IN MEMORY OF ALL THE YOUNG MEN OF MARKTOWN WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN DEFENSE OF OUR 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 Grecik**

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

Special thanks to Mr. John Marquis for sharing this with us. His son Jacob currently serves on the U.S.S. Eisenhower which is on deployment to the Middle East.

## Historic Pullman Garden Walk—“Kitchens and Gardens”

Interested in making a positive change to the exterior of your home this summer? Do you like flowers and gardens? Did you know that Marktown was designed under the Garden City Concept? Did you know that adding a garden improves the ecology? Did you know that gardening is good for your physical and mental health? Whether you knew or not, it is all true and on top of that, gardening is fun and rewarding. It shows pride in your home and lets people know that you care about your neighborhood.

Whether you garden or not, 13th Annual Pullman Garden Walk is where you will want to be on Saturday, June 16, 2007, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Sponsored by the Historic Pullman Garden Club, tour several beautiful gardens and discover how residents have transformed these urban yards into attractive landscapes.

New this year, a few kitchens will be open demonstrating how gardening is incorporating into these historic rowhouses. The 13th Annual Garden Walk will feature a Boutique with items for sale. Start: Hotel Florence, 11111 S. Forrestville Ave. \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Call (773) 568-2441 for ticket information.



## Marktown Tradition Continues



*Mark Vidauri stops briefly for a photo before the game.*

The call "Play Ball" was heard once again this spring as the Lady Cardinals Softball team began their season once again in the Marktown Park. It is most unfortunate that they have now moved to their new field at Tod Park in East Chicago. They will be missed in our neighborhood.

Mark Vidauri of Marktown continues the baseball tradition of our neighborhood as a member of the E.C. Cardinals Men's Varsity Baseball Team playing second base. His cousin Martin (Marty) Unger is a member of the Freshman Team. Best of luck to all in the current season.



*Lady Cardinals Softball Team in the Marktown Park.*

# Marktown 1975...

## Contributor to America's Heritage

**A** walk through this small town today is not so very different from strolling through the Mark Townsite 58 years ago. Ripley's Believe It Or Not once reported that Marktown, Ind. is the only place in the nation where cars park on the sidewalks and people walk in the streets... and it's still true today!

Even though surrounded on all sides by industry - by Youngstown Steel's Indiana Harbor Works on three sides and on the other by a Standard Oil refinery -- the 200 one-and two-level homes with their European stucco exteriors are still neatly cared for. The fountain that once graced the town square is gone, but the Old World flavor of the community remains.

### Built in 1917

Built in 1917 as a community for workers of Mark Manufacturing Company, a predecessor of Youngstown Steel, Marktown has changed little. During those years it has been home to thousands of people, many of them employees of the Indiana Harbor plant. The population today is about 1,000.

Called an "ideal city" by architects and industrialists of the day, the workers' community was unique, widely discussed and its ideas copied. It was laid out with shops, stores, homes apartment, "boarding house", and even an automobile garage. The homes were equipped with conveniences then available only in the homes of the well-to-do... such things as running water, inside plumbing, and electric and gas service.

Rents for the comfortable and attractive homes were minimal. For example, a four room house rented for \$16.10 a month; a six room house for \$20.50.

### Preservation Site

Marktown was a "company town" for about 24 years. It was owned by the Steel and Tube Company of America (outgrowth of Marks Manufacturing) when that steel maker was acquired by Youngstown Steel in 1923. Sold to a real estate firm in 1941, the homes and other buildings were acquired by individuals.

Recognizing the distinctive character of Marktown, it just recently was declared an official Preservation Site in the state of Indiana. Its people continue to regard their community with concern and affection. *(continued on next page)*



CHILDREN PLAY on Marktown streets in the shadow of Youngstown's No. 2 tin mill.



PAPERBOY DAN SNYDER has an ideal kind of a route serving the homes in this compact town.



RETIREE . . . William Griffin, 33-year Youngstown man, is a long-time Marktown resident.



# the yield

YOUNGSTOWN SHEET AND TUBE COMPANY

VOLUME VIII, NO. 6

JULY 1975



RECREATIONAL AREAS were included in Marktown's design. Pausing for a moment here are Reginold Talley (front), with Cornelius Wilkins at left and Raymond Hill.



PLEASANT CHORE for Richard Escalante is taking young Joel and Ruben for a walk about the unique community that has been declared an historically preserved site by the state of Indiana.



YOU CAN BELIEVE IT . . . Just as Ripley said, cars are parked on the sidewalks in Marktown. Architecture of homes reflects the European influence on Howard Shaw, the Chicago architect who designed Marktown.



WASH DAY in Marktown. Pictured is Mrs. Carolyn Reel, wife of an East Chicago police officer who has lived most of his life in Marktown.

As the nation's Bicentennial Year approaches, Marktown citizens and the people of East Chicago, of which the area is a part, are preparing to highlight the community as a unique contribution to America's heritage.

*(continued on next page)*



## Bird Watching In Marktown: A Year Around Hobby!

It is amazing to see just how many different species of birds either make Marktown their home each year or that at least pass through our most unique neighborhood on a seasonal basis. I am sure we have all seen the Robins, Wrens, Sparrows and Starlings. I am also many have seen the Blue Jays and Cardinals.

For those of us who keep an eye out for the birds in our neighborhood we have seen some rather interesting ones in Marktown. The Great Blue Heron that stopped here for a day or two is still remembered by those who saw it flying through the neighborhood.

Over the past three years we have had a number of outstanding sightings here in Marktown. Leading that list was the Black-crowned Night Heron perched majestically in the pine tree on Broad Street. Add to the this daily visits of the Peregrine Falcons that nest in the mills nearby and we are always open for a thrill as they hunt down smaller prey to feed upon. This past winter we even spotted an American Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk) feeding upon prey in the winter snow.

Mid April brought yet another rare sighting in Marktown when a young American Bittern was not only spotted but photographed in the Marktown park on Pine Avenue. It should be noted that this is a threatened species, and when spotted should be avoided at all cost. Live and let live is the best advise.

For those of you interested in birding (bird watching) you might want to visit the Hammond Bird Sanctuary or learn more about birds on the National Audubon Society web page at: [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org). Special thanks to Lynda McGinnis of the Dunes-Calumet Audubon Society for assisting us with the identification of this wonderful visitor to our neighborhood.

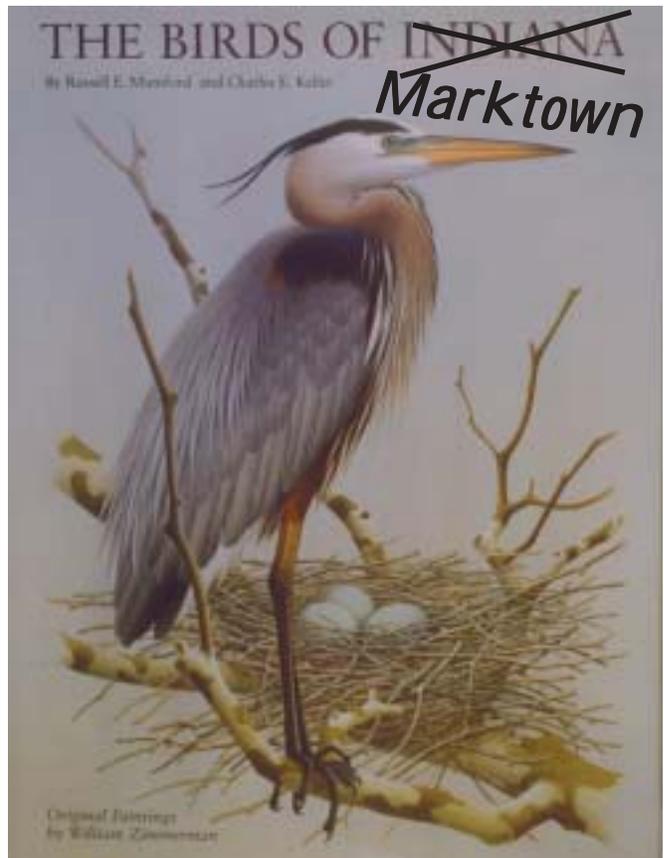


Above: A young American Bittern photographed in the Marktown Park this spring. A rare sighting anywhere in the Calumet Region, but especially in open parklands.



Above: Bird baths and bird feeders are a great way to not only attract birds to your neighborhood and home, but it can also help the birds survive long winters here in the Midwest.

Right: If you spot a bird that you do not recognize, stop in at the Marktown Community Center and take a look through *Birds of Indiana*. Ask Judy, she knows where the book is kept.



# Ending Rumors About BP Buying Marktown

I don't like lies or rumors about myself, those I respect or the Marktown Historic District. When I do hear them I make a concerted effort to either have them confirmed or denied. And so it was the case this past January. I had attended a conference on environmental issues and during the break a past resident of Marktown said ***"I have a good friend that's a senior engineer at BP and he told me that they have billions of dollars and their going to buy up everything in Marktown and tear it down for their refinery expansion."***

***"Their gonna buy the property where that trucking company was over there by the west bridge and their going to put a bunch of the new refinery on that property too."***

On January 16, 2007 I sent a letter to Mr. Thomas Keilman, Director of Public Affairs - BP Whiting detailing the comments and asked that he respond in kind. The following is the text from his response:

February 5, 2007

Dear Mr. Myers,

This letter is in response to your January 16, 2007 letter regarding BP's intentions related to property issues in the city of East Chicago. BP has no intention of purchasing residential property in the Historic Marktown District for the BP refinery reconfiguration project. At one time BP did briefly explored the possibility of purchasing commercial property in Marktown. This option was ruled out because the property was not suitable for the specific office needs of BP or possible contractor employees. BP has never considered the possibility of purchasing residential property in Marktown.

With regard to the potential acquisition of industrial property owned by Mittal Steel directly north of Marktown, BP is currently in discussion with Mittal Steel on a potential long-term lease agreement for property on both sides of the Bridge north of 129<sup>th</sup> St. in the City of East Chicago. The details of this agreement as of now have not

been finalized. If this agreement is finalized, BP will be willing to share the details of future land use of the property with the City of East Chicago, Councilman Robert Garcia, and the residents of Marktown including you as Executive Director.

BP does appreciate your concerns related to BP's announced investment. It is critically important that BP has open lines of communication with the community and our neighbors. Once we are able to share additional details beyond what has already been previously announced we are committed to sharing this with the local community.

Please feel free to contact me at anytime regarding these issues.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Keilman  
Director of Public Affairs

Cc: Councilman Robert Garcia

## Property Taxes Could Jump Higher Than Expected

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

By DEANNA MARTIN

Associated Press Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) Property tax bills could jump by an average of nearly 24 percent statewide this year, according to a new estimate showing far higher increases for homeowners than previously predicted.

"This is shocking stuff," Rep. Jeff Espich, R-Uniondale said Tuesday. "This is the worst property tax news I've seen in 30-some years here."

Analysts originally predicted

residential property taxes to increase by a statewide average of 14.6 percent. New data from the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency shows the average increase at 23.8 percent.

A variety of factors are expected to cause the increases. One is that 2007 is the first year of trending \_ a system that uses formulas to estimate how much property values in each county have increased since 1999, the base year for the last reassessment. Annual trending can negate the "sticker shock" many

homeowners experience during reassessments that have traditionally occurred years apart.

Since this is only the first year of trending, it can be considered a reassessment of sorts, and lawmakers and analysts say it is a major reason for higher bills this year. But now some legislators say trending is driving up bills even higher than previously thought.

Lawmakers are working to find a compromise on a plan for property tax relief before the legislative session's adjournment deadline Sunday.

**Marktown Update** is published each month by the **Marktown Preservation Society, Inc. (MPS)** from their office at the residence of Paul A. Myers. It distributed free of charge to all of the residents of Marktown. It is also distributed to more than 400 non residents via the U.S. Mail. An index to all of the past issues, as well as PDF electronic copies of each issue are available at the official

Marktown web page at [www.marktown.org](http://www.marktown.org). Anyone wishing to submit articles for consideration in future issues should send them to Paul A. Myers, 405 Prospect Street, East Chicago Indiana 46312 or via email at [mrmarktown@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mrmarktown@sbcglobal.net). The contents of this newsletter are protected under copyright. Reprinting articles or photos is prohibited without the express consent of the MPS.