



# MARKTOWN UPDATE

A publication of the Marktown Preservation Society

October 2003

## THEY JUST KEEP COMING - BUT WHY?

Long before any of the current residents of Marktown made this tiny community their home, people used to come and see it. Long before Paul Myers and the Marktown Preservation Society held their major traveling exhibit in 1990 titled "**Marktown, the Architect, the Builder and the People**" Marktown drew the attention of architects and industrialists. Decades later our neighborhood is still being visited on a more and more regular basis. The current wave includes architectural and industrial historians. But the question is why? Why are they so interested in our little community?

It began back in 1916, before the ground was even broken. It began because Clayton Mark, a noted social reformer and industrialist and Howard Van Doren Shaw, one of the nation's most renowned architects, decided to make a statement. A statement that is as viable today as it was eighty-five years ago.

In the first five years after the Mark Town Site was completed, articles continued to appear in local and national publications. What is most amazing about the continued notoriety is that only four of the thirty some sections of our neighborhood were completed. Yes, a partially completed architectural project was and still is noteworthy.

It was this notoriety and several other factors that caused Mayor Robert A. Pastrick and the residents of Marktown to place the

Marktown Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places, thus saving it from the wreckers ball.

In the 1970's a national trend towards historic preservation took hold in this country. That trend is chronicled in a book titled "**They All Fall Down: Richard Nickel's Struggle to Save America's Architecture**" by Richard Cahan. Mr. Nichols was one of the nations most noted architectural photographers and historic preservationists. While it is well documented that he was never able to save a building from

the wreckers ball, the foundation for historic preservation that he laid has helped neighborhoods like ours overcome the ignorance that would tear down a building as opposed to finding funds and suitable reuse for virtually any structure.

So, why do people keep coming to Marktown? One answer is because it is here. More accurately, because the architect that designed our neighborhood was one of the nation's most notable architects. So important is his work that in 1926, just before Mr.

Shaw's death, he was awarded the American Institute of Architects Gold Medal for lifetime achievement.

They also come because we have an outstanding web page that tells them where we are and provides them with a brief history of our neighborhood. They come because they see the potential to have an entire community from 1917 fully restored to its former glory.



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

# LET'S LEAVE THE CHILDREN OUT OF IT!

For decades, no, more importantly, for eighty-five years, the residents of Marktown have gathered with the children of this community to celebrate certain holidays and to enjoy life. During this entire eighty-five years, many of those in political life have stepped forward to make donations to many of the programs and projects that we have. If you look at this, there are three types of activities; 1) those for adults only, like the Turkey BINGOs, 2) those for the children, like the Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast with Santa, and 3) those that include everyone like the old block parties or the three on three basketball tournaments we used to have.

For the past eighty-five years, no matter who sponsored the event, we had one simple rule:

*"Please don't put your name on donations that go directly to our children."* Most genuine and real politicians, or even the wannabe politicians, understand this. But unfortunately, some of those that are relatively new to the process just don't get it.

Last year I was pleased to see that a political candidate had donated the trophies for the annual Halloween Party for our children. I was somewhat dismayed to see that he had also taken the liberty of having his name engraved on the trophies. Can't he make the donation for our children without turning it into a political solicitation?

In past years we have had a Turkey BINGO in November. The event is usually an adult only program, as many adults don't like having children running about during a BINGO. The purpose of the event is to make sure that

as many residents as possible have a nice Thanksgiving Dinner. We probably couldn't have the event if the elected officials and potential candidates didn't make substantial donations to the BINGO. But let's face it. When that Turkey goes on the table on Thanksgiving Day it doesn't have "Paid for by \_\_\_\_\_" embrazened on the side. How do we give them credit for their donation? We say "Thank You" when we receive the donation, and if we are really good at what we do, we send out thank you letters immediately after the event. We also announce who made the donations at the BINGO. Everyone is happy and we all come out ahead.

When Mayor Pastrick and the Parks and Recreation Department made donations of candy to one of our events, they didn't put political advertisements on the packets of candy. All they are really interested in is seeing to it that the children have a good time.

But what about Easter, Halloween and the upcoming Breakfast with Santa? Do we want candy, trophies or

even Christmas gifts labeled with politician's names? I don't think so. Those that really care about our community would not stoop to political advertisement on items directly donated for the children of this community.

While I am sure that the Marktown Women's Club will be managing these events in the future, I can only hope that they will continue to enforce their own rules and that they make sure that the politicians **LEAVE OUR CHILDREN OUT OF IT!**



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

## ***New Recreation Equipment at Old Center***

So, just what do we get for having casino gaming in East Chicago? We could probably publish an entire book about all of the projects that are funded by gaming dollars here in East Chicago, but that's not our job. While some of our residents would like to take credit for the new equipment that was delivered to the Old Marktown Community Center the last week of August, the fact that ALL of the various community centers across this great city received new equipment at the same time tells me that this was a city wide program as opposed to a Marktown wish list being filled.

The new equipment included a pool table and a foose ball table. While we didn't ask for the equipment, and we could have waited until the new community center was completed, we

shouldn't look a gift horse or recreation equipment in the mouth.

The new equipment was immediately set upon by young and old alike as Paul Myers was the first to rack up the balls on the pool table and he and Ryan Rodriguez played a great game of eight-ball.

For some reason the Recreation Department wants to segregate the use of the center by age. Hopefully this will not always be the case as having adults and children enjoy the new recreation equipment together appears to work out quite nicely. We call that "Building community spirit." Paul even played foose ball with the Vidaurri boys.

We are also scheduled to receive new tables and chairs in the very near future. Well Done E.C.



## ***Water Leak Resolved In Record Time***

Monday, August 25th came and went without most Marktown residents even knowing that there was a problem with our water supply. For those of you who don't know it, Marktown and this side of the shipping canal are fed by four major water lines. One at Dickey Road, two can Canal Street and one at Indianapolis Blvd.

At about 7 PM on the 25th, one of our residents had just finished a shower and went downstairs to fix dinner. Between the time of the shower and the time he made it downstairs, we had lost nearly all of our water pressure. Next was a series of quick telephone calls to the emergency number for the Water Department, Rose Parker who is in charge of water distribution for East Chicago, and Mike Suty, the Superintendent of Utilities.

Our local resident

then went back to fixing dinner. Once dinner was over he headed out to see if he could find the leak, and guess what - he did. There, on Riley Road just past Cline Avenue was a newly formed lake which was growing by the minute. He returned home and let Rose Parker and Mike Suty know exactly where the leak was at. This saved the city of East Chicago valuable time in resolving the problem.

About thirty minutes later a water department emergency crew was on site and valving the water off between the leak and Marktown. What that meant was that Marktown, ISG, USS and Prax Air would all have standard water pressure until the leak was fully repaired. Special thanks to Paul Myers for being a good neighbor. The leak was repaired later in the week.



## ***Industrial Housing in the Early Years of the 20th Century:***

We all know by now that the primary reason that Marktown was placed on the National Register of Historic Places was due to the fact that it was designed by one of the nation's most renowned architects, Howard Van Doren Shaw. Most of us also know that it was built as corporate or industrial housing for the employees of Mark Manufacturing (now ISG Indiana Harbor Works) and that both our neighborhood and the parent company were named after Clayton Mark, the founder and a Chicago industrialist.

What many may not know is that in 1917 when Marktown was built, there were three other industrial housing developments built here in the greater Calumet Region. One is Sunnyside in Indiana Harbor which was built for Inland Steel, the second was what is now known as the Pullman District located on Columbia Avenue in Hammond, and the third is a series of cast concrete homes and apartments in downtown Gary, Indiana which were built by none other than Thomas Alva Edison. Of these four outstanding examples of early industrial housing, only Marktown has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The real questions still remains: "*Why was industrial housing needed.*" For the answer to this any many other questions in reference to Marktown and the need for industrial housing we turn to a booklet first published in Boston, Mass. in 1916 by the Aberthaw Construction Company. It is titled "***Industrial Housing Problems***" and it not only details the need for quality industrial housing, but more importantly defines exactly what was needed to resolve the problems and why it was needed.

What we find in reviewing the text is that in 1915 nearly 60% of the residents of the United States were foreign born and that many of them had arrived in this country from Europe and the British Isles seeking better opportunities in employment and freedoms found only in the United States of America.

The U.S. was not yet involved in the Great War (later to be known as WWI) and many of the newly arrived immigrants came over to flee the ravages of war on the continent. The great indus-

trial revolution was underway and good, hard working employees were needed to man the ever growing industrial plants that were rapidly expanding across this great nation.

In the three year period between 1913 and 1915 American corporations had a 400% to 1100% turnover of employees. What that meant was that every time they had a good employee trained to do his job, he moved on. A national survey was conducted to find the cause of this



great internal migration of the work force. The sponsors of that survey were the Commercial Club of Chicago and a group called The Municipal Museum of Chicago. How does this tie into Marktown? Clayton Mark was a prominent member of the Commercial Club and Howard Shaw was a major force in the Municipal Museum of Chicago who's function it was to define the needs of worker housing for Chicago and the nation.

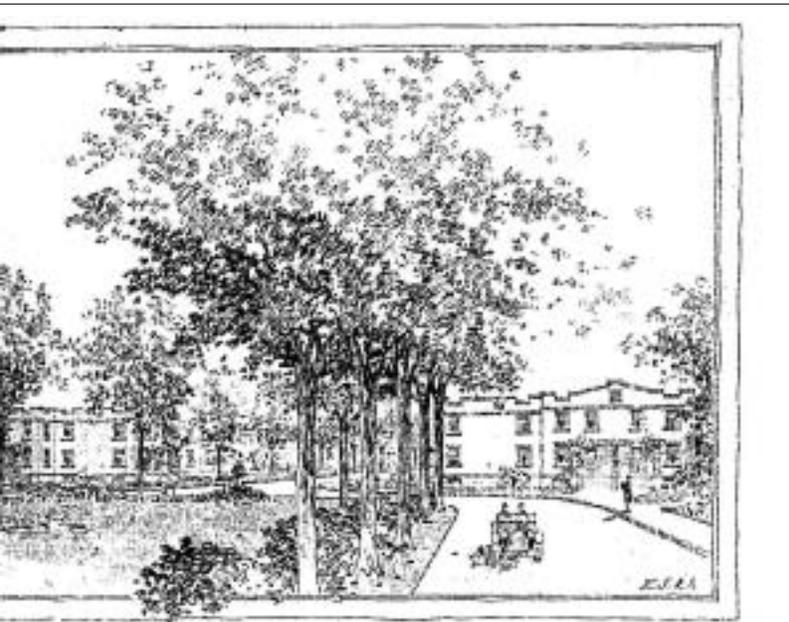
What their research showed was that the one constant factor for the turnover of the work force was a lack of quality and affordable hous-

## ***The Real Reason the Mark Town Site Was Built* by Paul A. Myers**

ing not only for the employee, but more importantly for their families. It should also be noted that even when higher wages were offered, employees would leave a well established job for less paying job at which his family could be afforded housed.

So, what were some of the recommendations of the report? Here is a sample of the text: **Housing Essentials: *The essentials of a modern city house may be summarized as follows:***

Watertight roof, walls and floors.



**I**T IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO DESIGN AN ARTISTIC REINFORCED CONCRETE HOUSE WITH FLAT ROOF. THIS DESIGN OF FIFTY-TWO FOUR-ROOM HOUSES AROUND A VILLAGE SQUARE GIVES ONE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM.

- Bedroom for parents.
- Bedroom for male children.
- Bedroom for female children.
- Living-room for cooking, eating and general day use.
- Private toilet-room with sanitary water-closet and sewer connection.
- Suitable heating arrangements.
- Running water supply fit for drinking.
- Uninterrupted daylight and ventilation through windows in every room.
- Sink in kitchen, with running water and waste.

***Further additions required by the American fam-***

***ily and considered necessary by them:***

- Cellars.
- Closets.
- Bathtub with running water.
- Window screens.
- Separate parlor.

***Desirable improvements which usually are added:***

- Porches and piazzas.
- Lavatory bowl.
- Hot-water supply to bath and bowl.
- Window shades.
- Window blinds.
- Dining-room separate from parlor or kitchen.
- Electric lighting or gas piping.
- Wall-paper.
- Laundry tubs.

***The various types of dwellings now in use are as follows:***

- (A) Single houses of five to seven rooms.
- (B) Two-family houses of four to seven rooms.
- (C) Terrace or row houses of four rooms and up.
- (D) Apartment-houses or tenements, two rooms and up.
- (E) Boarding-houses for single men.
- (F) Hotels.

In reviewing this check list of housing stock recommendations two things are apparent: 1) Marktown fits the bill in each and every category, and 2) what we take for granted today was considered quite novel eighty-five years ago.

In conclusion the Marktown Historic District is far more important than many people have ever imagined. While it was designed by one of the most famous American architects, Howard Van Doren Shaw, and while it was built by Clayton Mark in what was then know as the North Harbor section of East Chicago, its importance to the nation lies in the fact that it is one of but a few rare examples of a near perfect industrial housing development in all of North America. It stands today as a living tribute to American ingenuity, the American worker and his family, and it is the very essence of the social reform movement of the early part of the 20th century.

## Back to School Lunch for the Children

Just when you think that the Two Judy's and Ms Maria couldn't come up with anything new for our community, they step forward and come up with yet another great program for the children. Friday, August 22 found a good number of the children from our neighborhood having a great lunch and an even greater time at the Old Marktown Community Center. The event was sponsored by the Community Center Staff and the Marktown Women's Club.

The children were provided with a truly great home-made spaghetti lunch, fresh salad, hot dogs, polish sausage and dessert.

Exactly how

this came about is a bit unclear, but we are under the impression that it started with left over hot dogs and polish sausages from the Back to School Kid's Fest earlier in the month.

Ruth Plesha and Lourdes Hicks helped the Two Judy's and Ms Maria prepare and serve the food. Having watched the children eat, it was obvious that they not only enjoyed and appreciated the meal, but more importantly that they were getting ready to return to school the next week.

Special thanks goes to all of those who helped to make this event possible, but most especially, the Marktown Women's Club. Well done ladies.



*Parks & Recreation employees join with Marktown Women's Club members to serve children.  
(l-r) Judy Hicks, Ruth Plesha, Maria Perez, Judy Grindey and Lourdes Hicks.*

## Another Marktown Street Cleaned Up!

When the *Committee for a Better, Cleaner and Safer Marktown* went to the 500 block of Lilac Street at the end of August to cut one of the lawns that we have under contract, we took our committee name to heart. Having already rented the gas weed whacker for the day, we approached one of the home owners, Jesse Cavazos and asked if he thought there would be problem if we cleaned up all of the weeds along the public right of way, between the fence line and the edge of the street.

It only took a moment or two to remove the few cars parked on the house

side of the street and within 45 minutes, all of the unsightly weeds were mowed down and then blown into the street.

What did we do next? That was simple,. Since it was only 1 PM on a Thursday we put in a quick telephone call to Moncie of Sanitary Solids and the next thing we knew there was a street sweeper cleaning up the mess.

That's what we keep talking about. Team work and our ability to work not only with ALL of our neighbors here in Marktown, but with our municipal partners: The City of East Chicago.

See you soon!



# OAK AVENUE COMPLETED!

It seems like just yesterday that we began the Marktown Street Improvement project. Well, it doesn't really seem like yesterday. Actually it was 1989 that one of our residents approached the City Engineer with a request to restore the public parkway at Pine Avenue between Liberty and Spring Streets. You see, the father of that resident had the parkway paved over so he could park his lumber company trucks off of the city street.

In 1989, Paul Myers went to the city engineer and asked that the parkway be restored. What ensued over the next year is far too detailed to cover in a short article, so we will save that for another issue of Marktown Update.

The important thing to remember is that while it

may have taken fourteen years from start to finish, the street improvement project has continually and constantly moved forward.

With the completion of Oak Avenue only one street remains, Spruce Avenue. While the initial contract for both streets was signed earlier this year, Spruce Avenue will not begin until at least Spring 2004. Let's face it, we don't want the street torn up over the winter months and when they do Spruce Avenue we will all be inconvenienced during the period of construction. As a

part of the Spruce Ave. project we hope that NISOURCE and the city administration will find a way to remove the telephone poles from the sidewalks, thus making all of the sidewalks in the Marktown Historic District handicap accessible.



## MARKTOWN INCLUDED IN NEW BOOK

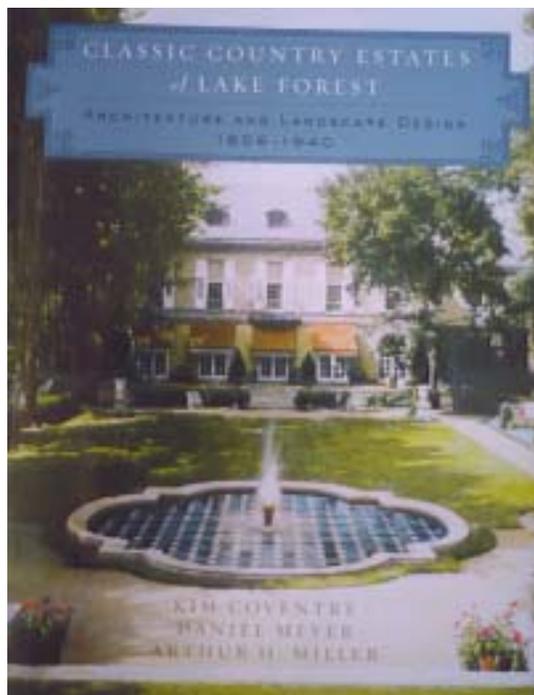
In the March 2003 issue of Marktown Update we included an article which listed some of the publications and books which have included articles or sections in reference to the Marktown Historic District. Just when we thought we had a complete list of publications another book has come onto the market which includes Marktown.

The book is titled "**Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest: Architecture and Landscape Design 1856-1940**" by Kim Coventry, Daniel Meyer and Arthur H. Miller.

Marktown is mentioned in the book for two basic reasons: 1) Howard Shaw designed many of the country estates in Lake Forest, and 2) one of those es-

tates was for Clayton Mark, the founder of Mark Manufacturing and the builder of the Mark Town Side.

One of the truly great aspects of the book is that it includes several interior and exterior photographs of the Mark Estate in Lake Forest, as well as a photograph of Clayton Mark.



Part of the citation in reference to Marktown reads: "*Clayton Mark was a steel fabricator who commissioned Shaw as well for the design of Marktown, an English Arts and Crafts company town built for his workers in East Chicago, Indiana.*" The book retails for approximately \$75.00 and may be available at the E.C. Public Library.

## WE'VE FIXED THE BROKEN WINDOWS... BUT WE NEED EVERYONE'S HELP TO TRULY FIX THE PROBLEM!

In the September issue of Marktown Update we featured an article titled "*Fixing Broken Windows...Pulling Weeds and Eliminating Graffiti!*" The article was based upon a book titled "*Fixing Broken Windows: Restoring Order and Reducing Crime in Our Communities*" by George L. Kelling and Catherine M. Cones.

The prior article dealt with the negative effects of the broken windows, ever growing weeds and graffiti. The article also had a photograph of a set of Marktown dining room windows in which eight of the twenty-four panes of glass had been broken. The same set of windows is shown here. The glass has been replaced and reglazed and the windows have been scraped and painted. But will that resolve the problem? Quite simply, NO.

In the book by Mr. Kelling, the concept of the effects of broken windows was only used as an introduction to what the real problems facing society are. Those broader problems that face virtually every major and minor city in this country are also obviously present not only in the Calumet Region, Gary, Hammond, East Chicago, etc., etc., but more importantly, here in Marktown. The only advantage that we have is that we, as an isolated community, can do something about it.

What Kelling explains in his book is something that many in law enforcement have known for many years: that smaller crimes, if left unpunished, lead to bigger and bigger crimes and eventually to gangs, drugs and yes, murder.

As we noted in the last article, the way to stop the vandalism is through community involvement and community policing. Earlier this year there was a problem on one of the 500 blocks of Marktown. When the police came out to investigate the problem, no one, not one person wanted to tell the police who did what or what went on. About three months later, around Easter, when the case was cold and the suspects were in trouble for something else, a few witnesses came forward and wanted to file a report. Well, quite simply, that doesn't work. Their credibility as witnesses just went out the window and at that point their testimony probably would not hold up in a court of law.

We, as a neighborhood, as residents of this very

isolated part of East Chicago, have to work with all of our fellow neighbors to resolve the problems of vandalism and crime in our neighborhood. If you are willing to let children in this community break out someone else's windows, then don't be surprised when your windows are broken out and no one is willing to step forward and either stop the vandalism or at least be willing to testify against those who violated the sanctity of your property.

So, how do we resolve the problem? 1st: Look out for your neighbors property as if it were your own. 2nd: If you catch someone vandalizing property, either public or private property, try to work with them so they know that what they are doing is WRONG. 3rd: Try to work with the parents of the child. Explain to them the need for their immediate intervention.

If it is an adult, try speaking with them about the problem. Talk to them and try to use reason and understanding as opposed to threats. Even if it is something as serious as shooting off guns in the neighborhood, take a moment of your time and let them know that this type of activity in this neighborhood will not be tolerated. If all else fails, file a police report and press charges!

What happens if we do not stop the younger residents of our community from vandalizing vacant properties? Their next step up the ladder of crime is to vandalize occupied properties. Then it is breaking and entering, theft etc., etc., etc. Do you get the point? The people that are selling drugs, shooting off guns and much, much more started their spree by breaking windows of vacant homes. The way to stop the more serious crimes of the future is to stop the vandalism in our community NOW! We need to work with the children, their parents and yes, with each other if we are to make a difference in this or any other community or neighborhood.

Marktown is a most unique neighborhood. We have the opportunity to put the entire greater Calumet Region on the map. All we have to do is to begin working together once again. We need to put aside our differences and help to make the Marktown Historic District a cleaner, better and safer place to live and to raise a family. If we all work together, we can make a difference in Marktown and all of East Chicago.



## **MARKTOWN INCLUDED IN TV SPECIAL!**

I don't know of many Marktown residents who have not watched WTTW - Channel 11 in Chicago and their great architectural programs hosted by Geoffrey Baer. The programs are heralded across all of the United States as being not only most informative and technically correct, but most importantly, family entertainment that educates and inspires the viewer.

Past programs have included Chicago's Four Seasons, Chicago By Land, Chicago By Boat, Chicago's Lakefront and most recently Chicago's North Shore. Each of the programs focuses upon a specific topic of public interest, and each program is well received by the general public.

Well, Believe it Or Not, Geoffrey Baer and WTTW Chicago are now in Northwest Indiana and yes, the Marktown Historic District. They are here to video their next public television special on the history and architecture of the greater Chicago area. As many may know, Northwest Indiana actually got its first major

start in commercialization during the Columbian Exhibition of 1893. The second major motivation for Northwest Indiana was of course the development of the South Shore Rail Road in the early part of the 20th century.

While we have not been privileged enough to read through Mr. Baer's script for the upcoming show, what we do know is that Gary Indiana, with the homes designed by Thomas A. Edison and Chicago architects Dean & Dean, along with the Marktown Historic District are featured in the new program.

In September, Mr. Baer and a video crew were in Marktown for a preliminary shoot. They are now revising the script and will once again be in Northwest Indiana later this fall for the final taping. The project will go to the editing room early next year and will probably air later in 2004 in conjunction with one of their public television fund-raising events. As soon as we have more information of the program we will let you know in Marktown Update. See you on TV.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN MARKTOWN**

As we mentioned in this and other issues of Marktown Update, we need your help. We need everyone's assistance in making Marktown a cleaner, better and safer place to live and to raise a family. Whether you join one of the several organizations or just want to join in and help, there is plenty for everyone to do and volunteering to help improve this neighborhood is a very, very rewarding job.

Two comments have been made in recent months that need to be addressed. The first is *"The Women's Club is Barbara Perez's group and I don't want to join that."* The second comment was *"That Committee for a Better, Cleaner and Safer Marktown is Myers' organization and I don't want to join that."* Well, neither of these comments couldn't be farther from the truth, but quite often the truth isn't what people want to hear.

Neither of the organizations belong to either of these individuals, however, each of them belongs to them. Both organizations need your help whether you pay dues and really get

active, or you just volunteer to help and get the job done.

Each year, the Marktown Women's Club sponsors four major events for ALL of the Children of Marktown. The Easter Egg Hunt, The Kid's Fest, the Halloween Party and Breakfast with Santa are all sponsored by them. Unfortunately, it appears that the only people that get involved are a hand full of their members, most of whom don't even have children young enough to participate in the events.

The Committee for a Better, Cleaner and Safer Marktown is in the same position. This past summer they took on the task of cleaning up some of the unattended lawns of vacant property. It is hard work, but when they do it, they always feel good about helping to clean up the neighborhood.

It doesn't take a great deal of time or effort to volunteer to help with one of the projects or programs. It only takes a firm desire to help make this a better place to live and to raise a family. Volunteer and get involved in Marktown.

## ***Marktown Included in DNR Seminar***

Saturday, September 13, 2003 found Paul Myers and a number of Marktown residents in Elkhart Indiana for the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology Annual Grassroots Preservation Roundup. The event was open to anyone interested in local history and the preservation of historic resources for future generations to use and enjoy. It was also intended to help local preservationists make connections with each other and the State Historic Preservation Office for the common use of preserving local landmarks and heritage such as the Marktown Historic District.

We learned about the DPHA's programs and participated in discussions about the various organizations' successes, challenges and activities, and networked with fellow preservationists.

During the opening presentations, Paul Myers put on an outstanding slide program which gave an overview of the history of Mark-

town and detailed some of the programs, projects and problems that face our neighborhood.

Of greatest interest to most of the participants was our ability to draw on gaming funds for the development of our New Marktown Community Center and the completion of the street and historic lighting program. All of the participants were asked to bring printed materials in reference to the project or neighborhood that they are involved in. The Marktown Preservation Society provided seventy-five tour packets which also included the September issue of Marktown Update and several reprinted sections of earlier editions.

Following lunch we had the opportunity to tour some of the National Register properties in Elkhart and more importantly, to speak with others from Indiana who have some of the same problems that we have. All in all, it was a great way to spend a Saturday and it renewed our faith in historic preservation.

## ***What Happened to Our New Center?***

The first issue of Marktown Update was issued last December to let ALL of the residents of Marktown know what was being planned in relation to the New Marktown Community Center. Well, the plans are relatively complete and we did have a formal ground breaking back in April. But what happened to the actual construction start date.

There have been several things that have delayed the actual start of the building. One problem was in relation to land ownership. You see, the property is actually owned by the East Chicago School City and not the Parks and Recreation Department or the municipal city. While that might not appear to be a problem to most residents, from a legal standpoint, that is a major problem that needs to be addressed before construction begins.

When our current center was rehabbed in 1983, it was done under a memorandum agreement between the School Board and the Park Board. But then again, that was only approximately \$150 to \$200,000 and the end use purpose of the center did not change.

The New Marktown Community Center will cost several million dollars and will also include a full size basketball court. The liability during construction and the varied end use of the building means that the School Board will probably want to divest themselves of the property all together before construction begins. This is of course, not to mention the idea of turning our center into a Child Day Care facility and a Half Way House or Women's Shelter. Can you imagine the degree of liability associated with any of these programs?

The bottom line is that even after the Park Board takes possession of the property, they will still have to announce the bid in the legal section of the local newspapers, receive the bids at an open door meeting, review the documents and then finally make a decision as to which contractor has the best bid. Let's make this simple. Construction on the New Marktown Center will probably not begin until at least spring of 2004. With a projected construction time of eighteen months, the new center will probably not be open for business until the fall of 2005.