



# MARKTOWN UPDATE

A publication of the Marktown Preservation Society

October 2005

## *Pullman To Marktown And Back - On Bicycles!*



Labor Day 2005 will undoubtedly go down in history as a celebration of the labor movement and yes, historic preservation. More than seventy-five people, young and well - not so young, rode bicycles from the Pullman Historic District in Illinois to the Marktown Historic District in East Chicago and back. Along the way they took the opportunity to take in nature, architectural history and the history of the labor movement in the United States. Leaving the Florence Hotel in Pullman at 10:00 AM the group headed east past wetland and marshes until it reached the shore of Lake Michigan in Hammond.

From there it was on through Whihala and Whiting Parks and down between the BP Refinery to the Marktown Historic District. Paul Myers provided them with a brief history of the neighborhood and opened his home to the visitors. As usual the questions varied from architectural to historical and from industrial to political, all of which were answered before the tour moved on.

The next step on the tour was the Riley Road entrance ramp of Cline Avenue which collapsed on April 15, 1982 killing 12 workers and injuring 18. Once again Paul Myers was the docent for this portion of the tour as he was with the Safety Department of J&L Steel at the time and was one of the first responders to the accident site on that dreadful day.

After explaining the nature of the accident the group was off to Memorial Hall on Avenue O in Hegewisch. Just to the west of the hall was the gates of Republic Steel, where on Memorial Day in 1937, without cause or provocation Chicago Police along with private security personnel opened fire on an orderly march and ten innocent people lay dead in the aftermath. It gave us all pause to think.

From here it was on to the Florence Hotel. It took us about two hours to make it from Marktown to Pullman, but the time was well worth it as lunch was served on the veranda and there were enough cool beverages (non alcoholic) to make everyone glad they had arrived.

We were somewhat surprised to find that a concert had been planned and that a number of local bands had assembled for the event. What a great day!

Two years ago the first Pullman to Marktown and back tour was planned. While they did not repeat it last year, the decision to do so this year was also made with a commitment to make this an annual event.

**Editor's Note:** While I had not planned on riding beyond the Riley Road portion of the tour, I was thrilled with having rode just the Marktown to Pullman portion of the event. What a great way to spend Labor Day: riding to Pullman with 75 newly found friends.



*Top Left: More than 75 bicyclists regroup on the corner of Prospect Street before continuing their journey through history back to the Pullman National Landmark District in Chicago.*

*To Right: The group stops at Memorial Hall on Avenue O adjacent to the old Republic Steel.*

*Above: Paul Petraitis, a nationally noted photographer displays his talents in the musical field for a Labor Day concert on the veranda of the Hotel Florence in Pullman.*

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## EAST CHICAGO: Community rich in history, art and tradition, PUC professor says BY STEVE ZABROSKI *Times Correspondent*

EAST CHICAGO — Always on the lookout for new ideas to inspire her teaching students, Dr. Lavada T. Brandon found a good one at the Indiana Welcome Center — a brochure about Marktown.

The Purdue University Calumet assistant professor immediately saw how the tiny neighborhood, built as a planned community in 1917 to house workers in the nearby steel mills, could function as a center of discussion for learning about history, science, art and community.

She and her students walked the narrow streets of Marktown on Tuesday, learning about its sewers, its stucco, its development from a company town into its current residential form, and talked about how lessons learned in the northwest corner of East Chicago could enhance the educational experience of junior and high school students.

"They can look at the history of Marktown and relate it to the expansion of their own neighborhoods," said Tom Bortko, a senior at Purdue from Crown Point.

"One of my family's good friends used to live here," said Auston Tussey of St. John. "I can get firsthand accounts of what it was like."

Designed by Chicago architect Howard Van Doren Shaw, the 94 Tudor Revival-styled buildings of Marktown were arranged to evoke the feeling of an English country village, in contrast to the smoke and fire

of the factories surrounding it on three sides.

"It's a very special place," said Paul Myers, East Chicago's director of historic preservation, who conducted a two-hour walking tour for the students.

Their next task is a research paper on the experience, and to generate a lesson plan for high school students incorporating Marktown as an example for exploring historical, social and industrial topics.

"Marktown is a wonderful springboard to examine urban issues," Brandon said.

Tuesday was not the first time Purdue Calumet students have taken an interest in the community. A Historic Preservation Adaptive Reuse class once used a hypothetical renovation of the empty Mark Hotel as an exercise in modern structural reuse.

But the teaching students were less interested in brick and mortar than they are in ideas, and for those they look to their teacher.

"Dr. Brandon is tremendous," said Ann Marie Caballero of Merrillville. "The way she can really bring history home for you, and put it into perspective."

And speaking of home, Myers dramatically caught the students' attention when he informed them that houses in Marktown currently sell for less than \$30,000.

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**Top:** Dr. Brandon takes a few moments after the hour and a half tour to brief the students on their assignment. **Bottom:** Students pause for a group photo following the tour. Everyone who attended the tour enjoyed the neighborhood hidden amidst the industry.

## MPS Goes Digital!

Oh NO! Something relatively modern in Marktown? Can't be! But wait, yes, the Marktown Preservation Society has gone digital. Earlier this year the MPS borrowed a very nice digital camera. Just after the World Changers program we had to return the camera, but before we did we managed to find an identical Olympus SLR E-10 on E-Bay. What had originally sold for nearly \$4,000.00 was available for only \$500.00. Once we were successful with our bid we made one telephone call, wrote one letter and there it was, a donation was made to the MPS from one of our corporate neighbors and the cost of the camera was covered.

When we spoke to the person selling the camera in Connecticut we mentioned that we were also looking for a smaller, simpler camera that we could donate to the ladies at the Marktown Community Center so they could document their activities with the children of this neighborhood. Guess what? That second camera was donated by the person we purchased the original camera from.



*Above: The camera for the ladies at the Community Center. Below: The SLR camera for the MPS.*

What does this mean to the Marktown Preservation Society? To begin with we save hundreds of dollars each year in the cost of film and processing. No more two day delays as the film is dropped off and processed. No more having to scan the photos before we place them in Marktown Update. As for the quality of the printed photos in Marktown Update, well that has improved greatly. Digital photos reproduce much nicer than scanned images.

This past June when the children from Marktown went sailing at the East Chicago Marina, we were able to provide each of the participants with photos of their experience when they returned to Marktown later that day. Now that's real time service, and service that brought smiles to many

young faces. And just how did we make this digital conversion possible? Once again it was teamwork and the ability to not only define the problem, but more importantly, to determine a viable and feasible solution. Teamwork pays off again for the MPS and all of the Marktown Historic District.

## Marktown & Pullman Historic District Tours Planned

### **Marktown Historic District**

The Marktown Preservation Society, Inc. is pleased to once again announce our annual historic district tours. This year's tours are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, October 1st and 2nd at 10:30 AM and 2:30 PM each day. The Sunday morning tour is relatively reserved for past Marktown residents and their families. Each tour is expected to last about an hour and a half to two hours and will include a house tour of a six room duplex and a walking tour of the entire neighborhood as outlined in the ***Walking Through Marktown*** tour map.

In the event that either day or both days are rained out the tours will be automatically rescheduled for the following weekend. The cost per person for the tour is \$5.00 with all proceeds to go directly to the Marktown Preservation Society, Inc. For further information in relation to the tours, visitors are encouraged to visit the official Marktown Historic District web site at [www.marktown.org](http://www.marktown.org). Inquiries may be directed via email to [mrmarktown@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mrmarktown@sbcglobal.net) or via telephone to Paul Myers at (219) 397-2239. The tours are a great way to learn more about a truly wonderful neighborhood.

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

### **Pullman Historic District**

October 8 & 9, 2005, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM. A MOST POPULAR EVENT since 1974! Visit the interiors of seven to eight Pullman homes, the Greenstone Church, and the Pullman Visitor Center. Proceeds from the Historic Pullman House Tour go into a special brick & mortar fund for major public buildings and other restoration projects in Pullman. The Annual Historic Pullman House Tour is cosponsored by the Pullman Civic Organization and the Historic Pullman Foundation, and is one of Chicago's longest running home tours. Tickets are \$18 per person or \$15 for seniors. Advance tickets are \$15 by calling (773) 785-8901. Additional information in relation to the Pullman Historic District can be found on their web site at [www.pullmanil.org](http://www.pullmanil.org) or at [members.aol.com/PullmanIL](http://members.aol.com/PullmanIL).

*The Pullman Historic District is located approximately five miles due west of the Marktown Historic District. It is just west of the Bishop Ford Highway between 111th and 115th Streets. While the Pullman Historic District is about 30 years OLDER than Marktown, their homes are currently selling for \$150,000.00 to \$200,000.00 EACH! You see, historic preservation truly does pay off in the long run!*





## THEY MAY LOOK CUTE - BUT ARE THEY?

### *Stray cats and raccoons: the problem and the resolution.*

Don't they look cute? I don't know of anyone who doesn't think that a little kitten, puppy or even a raccoon isn't cute, or at the least cute and cuddly. The fact of the matter is that stray cats: cats that have been raised wild in a neighborhood, are to be considered vermin. They carry diseases and fleas and if a child somehow befriends a stray cat and does get close enough to pet or attempt to pick it up, you can bet it won't be a pretty sight.

About seven years ago we had a major problem with feral cats in Marktown. When the Marktown Preservation Society realized that we would have to place a deposit on the cages and a \$1.00 a day rental fee we decided to purchase two cages of our own. In one summer we removed more than 120 stray, wild cats from our neighborhood. Domestic cats are ALWAYS and WILL ALWAYS be set free or returned to their owners.

2005 finds Marktown in a similar situation.

## Quality Of Life Projects Move Forward In Marktown

With our good neighbors at Safety Kleen, U.S. Gypsum, and Mittal doing such a great job of corporate stewardship in relation to their landscape and public appearance, the Marktown Preservation Society in conjunction with Allen Landscape in Highland, Indiana stepped forward and restored the vintage planter on the corner of Indianapolis Boulevard and Riley Road. The planter will be maintained by volunteers from the Marktown Preservation Society and the Marktown Historic District. Well done MPS!



Not only do we once again have a number of stray cats in the neighborhood, but with the trees being leveled north of Marktown on the Mittal Steel property we now have several families of raccoons in Marktown.

In order to resolve the problem we need your help. First and foremost DO NOT FEED ANIMALS THAT DO NOT LIVE IN YOUR HOME. Feeding stray cats only brings on more stray cats and makes them remain in that particular area. Secondly, please do not feed the raccoons. They will probably get into garbage cans in the evening hours and find enough to eat without feeding them. Thirdly, please let either the Animal Control Division of the Health Department (391-8364) or the Marktown Preservation Society (397-2239) know where the cats or raccoons are living.

If we all work together we can resolve this and many other problems facing our neighborhood.

The East Chicago Board of Public Works, in conjunction with the City Engineer, Ernie Jones and Mayor George Pabey approved a major alley improvement program for all of East Chicago. As a part of that program Marktown's only alley received a new surface the last week of August, 2005.

The firm of Walsh & Kelly was awarded the contract for the massive city wide project. Marktown only has one alley and it is located on the 500 block between Broad Street and Spring Street.



## Who's That Mail Lady In Marktown?

Marktown has had a number of letter carriers over the past 80+ years. In the early years we even had our own post office. It was the six room duplex on Oak Avenue and Riley Road. It also served as the rental and management office for the Mark Town Site. The Postmaster for Marktown at that time was Mrs. Bruner whose son lived on Park Street for decades.

In the 1960s, 1970s and probably into the 1980s we had Mr. Kenneth Timmons. He was LEGENDARY! I don't know of anyone who lived in Marktown that didn't know, love and respect Timmons.

Don't look now but it is a new century and yes, we have a relatively new U.S. Postal Service Letter Carrier in the Marktown Historic District. Her name is Regina Buggs and she is a lifelong resident of East Chicago. She graduated from George Washington High School in 1976 and attended Indiana State University.

She has been a letter carrier in East Chicago for the past 24 years and more importantly in Marktown for the past 3 1/2 years. While she has carried mail in virtually all of East Chicago, she prefers Marktown because of the lack of steps and the great people who make this their home. So when you see Regina, smile, wave and say hello!



## Marktown Volunteers Made Summer Fun For Everyone

Volunteering to do things in this neighborhood is not new by any means. As we noted in prior issues of Marktown Update, volunteering has been a part of Marktown since the very beginning and it continues to this day. No, 99.9% of those who volunteer do not do so in order to garner your political support. They do so because it is the right thing to do and they have a true desire to make things better in this neighborhood. It is with this concept in mind that we thought we would honor two previously unsung volunteers at the Marktown Community Center.

They are Nancy (Deiotte) Fink and Juanita McCormick. Both have made Marktown their home for decades and both had volunteered for years before the



Parks and Recreation Department came up with a formal volunteer program.

Juanita McCormick loves crafts. She collects and purchases various craft materials and donates them to the Marktown Community Center. Two things that she greatly enjoys doing are paper cutting intricate patterns and hand making flowers out of paper or ribbon.

Nancy (Deiotte) Fink grew up in Marktown and loves living here. While she is best known for her needle point she loves not only doing crafts but sharing her ideas and talents with the children and adults of Marktown.



We thank Nancy & Juanita for being a part of Marktown.

**The printing of this newsletter is made possible through the generosity of Mr. Dan McArdle, a former Marktown resident and a true friend of this community.**



## Mark Town Site Included In Monumental New Book

In the late nineteenth century, Chicago emerged as the center of architectural innovation in America. Forced to rebuild after the destruction wrought by the Great Fire of 1871 and to expand to accommodate a surge in population, Chicago offered myriad opportunities for talented designers like John Wellborn Root, Daniel Burnham, and Louis Sullivan. The Chicago Architectural Club was a powerful force in this architectural community, which created modern architecture in America.

Founded in 1885, when architecture was an emerging profession and formal architectural education was in its infancy, the Club provided a setting where aspiring draftsman could develop their skills by creating a professional network and participating in a lively program of lectures, design competitions, and social events. *The Chicago Architectural Club: Prelude to the Modern* documents the history of the organization and its role in shaping architectural education and modern architectural practice.

Wilbert R. Hasbrouck presents the personalities and politics of this impressive group, offering an in-depth look at the lesser-known men often largely responsible for implementing designs credited to their more famous employers. This comprehensive volume includes hundreds of drawings from iconic works such as the Home Insurance Building designed by William Le Baron Jenney and to count-

less other commercial and residential structures that laid groundwork for a uniquely American modern architecture.

Of special interest are ephemera from the Club itself: menu designs, posters, exhibition catalogues and rare portraits of the members, which together evoke the spirit of the year and the character of this unique institution.

And yes, Howard Van Doren Shaw and "Mark, Indiana" are also included in the outstanding 600+ page book. Each year the Chicago Architectural Club sponsored a juried exhibit of architectural sketches provided to them by their members. By 1919, just after Marktown was completed, the Club permitted photographs of completed works as opposed to the marvelous sketches of generations past. The Marktown portion of the exhibit included a photo of the 400 block of Pilgrim Court and the plan for the entire community. Where is Pilgrim Court you ask? That was the intended name for what was 6th Street and soon would become Liberty Street.

### ***The Chicago Architectural Club Prelude to the Modern***

Wilbert R. Hasbrouck  
Epilogue by Stanley Tigerman  
The Modern Press 2005  
ISBN 1-58093-144-8  
Retail price: \$75.00



STREET VIEW



Plans of Howard Van Doren Shaw's industrial housing development in Mark, Indiana, exhibited in 1919. (CAC/19)



### **The Chicago Architectural Club *Prelude to the Modern***

Wilbert R. Hasbrouck  
Epilogue by Stanley Tigerman

The Modern Press

**With TEAMWORK all things are possible. Let's all work together to make the Marktown Historic District a better, cleaner and safer place to live and to raise our families.**

## Letters From The Front - Iraq Update

Sunday 7 June 2005

Thank you for your sending the two cards. They were very nice. I enjoy reading Marktown Update. It is nice to hear good news from home. My name is Jose Andujar and I am a Sergeant in the U.S. Army with the HHC 113 Eng of Gary. I was born in Indiana Harbor in 1952. We moved to Gary which is not far. Ha. Ha. I will be home on pass the last week of July and will be there to take photos and have lunch.

It is getting very hot. Today is Sunday and the temperature is 114 degrees. If you like the sun, then this is the place. I will send the center a flag of Iraq for everyone to see at the center. The army man is my best picture with the flag in his hand. Well, I will talk to you later. God Bless you back in Marktown.

G.I. Joe - Sgt. Jose Andujar.

Tuesday 13 July 2005

Thank you for your letter. It was very nice. Here are a few things to put around your center. I hope you and the kids like it. Today it is 121 degrees. It is very hot in July and August and very bad. The soldiers are getting around OK. Iraq is not my cup of tea but we have a mission here and we are getting it done. I will send you a few photos soon. We are going to Baghdad for a few days. God Bless you all.

Sgt. Jose Andujar



**Above:** Carlos Reyes who grew up in Marktown and still has family here is currently serving in Iraq. He stopped at the Marktown Community Center to say hello and meet some of the children when he was home on leave recently. May God keep him safe and return him to his family soon.



**Above & left:** Sgt. Jose Andujar, our own G.I. Joe came home on emergency leave from Iraq and could not go back without stopping in at the Marktown Community Center to say hello to those from our neighborhood who have taken the time to support our troops abroad.



**Above:** A custom embroidered Iraq flag with Mark Town Rec. Center was sent to the children of Marktown along with a t-shirt, military matches and insignia, newspapers, and foreign currency (**right**) from Jose Andujar who is currently serving in Iraq. The items are currently on display at the office of East Chicago Mayor George Pabey. They were framed by Ms. Judy and Ms. Maria.



Please contact us via the internet at [mrmarktown@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mrmarktown@sbcglobal.net)

# Marktown Street Names: Past and Present

## *What was meant to be, what was and what is.*

When the Mark Town Site was first constructed in 1917 it was in the height of our involvement in World War I. As it was worker cottages for a steel manufacturer, architect Howard Van Doren Shaw proposed a combination of industrial and patriotic street names for the neighborhood.

Exactly why the original street names were not used remains a mystery. We do know that the original names used from 1917-1923 were a great deal less imaginative. When the plat for Marktown was finally filed in Lake County the E.C. Common Council approved the present street names.

<b>Proposed by H. Shaw circa 1917</b>	<b>1st names used circa 1917-1923</b>	<b>Plat of Record circa 1923 to present</b>
Freedom Road	K Street	Spruce Avenue
National Road	L Street	Pine Avenue
Ore Court	U Street	Oak Avenue
Iron Road	1st Street	Riley Road
Ingot Court	2nd Street	Lilac Street
Steel Court	3rd Street	Grove Street
Vulcan Court	4th Street	School Street
Honor Road	5th Street	Park Street
Pilgrim Court	6th Street	Liberty Street
Battle Court	7th Street	Spring Street
Noble Court	8th Street	Prospect Street
Post Road	9th Street	Broad Street

## Email From Our Friends

Dear Paul, July 30, 2005  
During our last telephone conversation and from comments in the newsletter from around that time, I noted a strong sense of unhappiness and despair. Such feelings are a natural by-product of being passionately interested in historic preservation and good citizenship. Don't let it get to you. Even when things seem their worst, positive efforts always have long-term worth and value.

Your efforts in advocating Marktown, Howard Van Doren Shaw and other areas of interest are downright heroic, and presented in an intelligent, accessible, and professional manner. I don't know of anybody who has done as good a job under such challenging circumstances.

Glad to hear about the garden walls, and am looking forward to the end result. Someone is screaming bloody murder about it?? Let 'em scream! When the work is finished and the streetscape really "sings" they'll realize what a fool they were. Chances are, they won't even have the guts to admit that they were wrong.

Tim Samuelson  
Chicago Department of  
Cultural Affairs

Dear Paul July 30, 2005  
Thank you for sending Marktown Update to me here in Canada. I am packing to return to California and will take the last two issues with me to share with my sister, Rita, who has her sixth treatment for Lymphoma this week. I want to congratulate you for your determined work in the preservation of "Little Hollywood" as Rita's friends called their neighborhood. I want you to know that I forward the newsletter to two friends, Tillie Norma Jean Krause, Lilac Street, daughter of Martha and Leo) who lives in Grand Junction, and also a friend of Rita's who lives in Lafayette. I do hope you have great support...I think I observed a new title with regard to your position with the City of East Chicago. Your being Director of Cultural Affairs and Historic Preservation appears to be an appropriate position for one as dedicated as you. I will be back in touch soon. Keep up the good work and let's keep Marktown on the map.

Myrna Johnson Quinn :-)

**Editor's Note:** We greatly appreciate hearing from our readers and are more than glad to print their comments. We receive dozens of e-mail and snail mail each month, all of which have always been very positive.