



MARKTOWN UPDATE

A publication of the Marktown Preservation Society

September 2003

BACK TO SCHOOL KID'S FEST A GREAT SUCCESS!

We're going to end this article the same way that we begin it - by thanking those who made the event possible. 1) Special thanks goes to all of the members of the Marktown Women's Club for having sponsored such an outstanding event for our children. 2) A very, very special thank you needs to go to Judy Hicks and Kim Rodriguez who spent countless hours planning, arranging and yes, shopping for the items that made the event possible, and 3) We need more volunteers for all of the projects throughout the year!

Well, now that that is out of the way, let's talk about what happened. This year's event began with a bicycle parade which was led by the E.C. Fire Department and followed up by Paul Myers in his Model A Ford. In-between were dozens of anxious participants on their neatly decorated bicycles. It was once around the Old Park and back to the Commu-

nity Center where the members of the Fire Department were ambushed into being judges for the event. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophies were presented to Sabrina Santos, Ben Turpin and Joshua Cavasoz. A well done goes to all of the participants.

The East Chicago Fire Department had their Fire Safety House and one of their Rescue Units on hand for everyone's enjoyment. The East Chicago Police Department, not to be out done, put on an outstanding exhibition of the tactical K-9 Unit. I don't know of anyone who was in

the park that was not impressed with the abilities that the K-9 Unit has. Well done ECFD and ECPD! We greatly appreciated having you participate in our community once again.

So, what else happened? More that you can imagine! Food was served out of the Community Center, and despite being yelled at by the Health Department, everyone had a great time. Walking Tacos, Hot Dogs, Polish Sausages and hamburgers were the main items on this year's menu. When we needed a hand with the cooking, our own Councilman Adrian Santos stepped right in and started flipping burgers.

Outside, members of the Women's Club and volunteers manned booths and games which gave all of the children of our neighborhood the opportunity to win school supplies, prizes, toys and games. The children had a great time and everyone

went away with something.

Why the School supplies? Well, just in case you haven't kept up with the times, the schools now require that students bring certain mandatory supplies to school the first week or two of classes. It can add up to a great deal of money, especially if you have more than one child attending school. By offering the school supplies as prizes, it gets the children interested in the "back to school" concept and it helps the parents cover the expense of the supplies. They actually have fun getting ready to go back to school. Who would have imagined?

While there is a great deal of expense in



Dozens of Marktown children anxiously await the decision of the Fire Department judges for the awarding of the best three bicycles in the Back to School Marktown Kid's Fest

putting on such a project, there is also that unique experience of having community leaders participate in the project. We would be remiss in our duties if we did not thank them for their generosity. First and foremost on the list is the Foundations of East Chicago who have provided the most generous support for all of the projects in our community. Second we need to thank Councilman Santos who sends a donation for each event even without being asked for it in advance. He has always been here for Marktown. Additional supporters included North Township Trustee Greg Cvitkovich, Safety Kleen, our own Dan McArdle, City Clerk Mary Morris Leonard and Councilman Medina.

Special thanks also goes to Paul Myers, Lourdes Hicks and everyone else who got into the dunk tank on this warm summer day. While we don't have a total of the receipts available to us, we do know that the line was long with dunkers when Paul was in the tank. He raised \$50.00 for the Women's Club and would have stayed in longer if he hadn't gotten in over his head!

Once again Jose Navarro won the Water Melon Eating Contest. We don't know where he puts it, but we are sure glad we don't have to feed him on a regular basis.

All in all, this was once again a

truly wonderful event that was enjoyed by young and old alike.

We would also like to thank the volunteers that made this event possible. If we left out your name, it is an oversight and we apologize in advance. The Women's Club, Nancy and Jim Fink, Christine Hicks & Brian Lampley, Meriam Felders, the entire Guajardo Family, the E.C.F.D. and E.C.P.D., David and Ryan Rodriguez, Fred, Freddy and Tony Avila, Dante & Justin Vasquez, Leslie Castaneda, Ruth Turpin, Leslie Guajardo, Paul Myers, Jesse Cavasoz, Lolly & Van

Rodriguez, Bill and Steve Hicks, Mary Lampley, Vito & Angie McCormick and Juavier Madriga.

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standing event for the children of our community. 2) A very, very special thank you needs to go to Judy Hicks and Kim Rodriguez who spent countless hours planning, arranging and yes, shopping for the items that made the event possible, and 3) We need more volunteers for all of the projects throughout the year! Let's all pitch in and help next time!



The Moon Bounce and the Air Slide were just a few of the attractions that kept our children entertained during the annual Back to School Kid's Fest!



Children and adults alike were enthralled with the demonstration put on by the members of the East Chicago Police Department K-9 Unit.

Need to e-mail us? You can contact Paul at mrmarktown@sbcglobal.net

SPRINKLERS REPAIRED IN MARKTOWN PARKS

Well over a year ago when Mayor Pastrick and key members of his staff came to Marktown for their first Town Hall Meeting, Dr. Raykovich mentioned that one of the items on his "to do list" was the restoration or replacement of the sprinkler system in our parks. Several months later we put together the agenda for the second meeting and in doing so included the sprinkler system. One of our wannabe community leaders protested this inclusion and said that it was never mentioned at the prior meeting. As that second meeting progressed, Dr. Raykovich once again noted that our sprinkler system would be restored or replaced. Well, he kept his word, but it took quite a bit of work and most especially teamwork to get it done.

Last fall and through part of the winter we noticed that a plumber was spending weekends at our park maintenance building. When we stopped in to see what he was doing we found that he was in the process of replacing all of the broken 4 inch water pipes that feed the sprinklers. By the time he got that part of the job done it was far too late in the year to begin the actual sprinkler replacement process.

This past month the Parks Department started looking for the actual sprinkler heads in the lawn. Since they had not been used in over ten years grass had grown over nearly all of them. The other question was, exactly how many sprinkler heads are there and where in the world are they?

Who came to their rescue? Well, it appears that back in 1980 when the Coastal Redevelopment Plan which renovated the parks was put into motion, Paul Myers was a part of the committee that oversaw the project. In his basement was a partial set of blueprints for the sprinkler system. While the park employees used that initial set of plans to start and locate the sprinklers in the Pine Avenue Park (the New Park), Paul spent two days going through

the blueprints at the Parks Department's main office at Washington Park. He not only found the missing blueprints for the rest of the 1980 project, but he also inventoried more than a dozen sets of blueprints for our parks dating back to the 1950's.

With the newly found blueprints in hand the park employees, with the assistance of the summer part time workers, were able to repair all of the broken pipes and install a new manual system of sprinklers, that with our assistance, will keep the Marktown Parks green and fresh for years to come.

What's this about "With our assistance"? Well, one of the things that destroyed the old system was people joy riding through our parks. That's right! Residents of our community, from time to time, and for one reason or another deem it necessary to drive their private cars into the park and do donuts in the grass. In doing so they destroy the sprinkler system which lies just below the surface of the turf. How do we solve this problem? Well there are two ways. One is that we see to it that no one drives in our parks unless they are park employees or are authorized to do so. The other part of the plan was that a new fence and gate were installed at the maintenance building at Pine Avenue and Broad Street. This helps to limit access to the park.

So, what did it take to get the sprinkler system repaired? Teamwork! That's right, that one term we keep bringing up - Teamwork! And what will it take to keep the sprinkler system working for years to come? Once again, TEAMWORK! We need to work with the Parks Department and help to prevent further vandalism in our parks. Oh yes, one last thing. The day after the sprinklers were fixed one of the Parks Department employees ran over a sprinkler head with a park lawn mower. We don't want to name names, but just ask Dante who it was. We're sure he can tell you all about it! Special thanks also goes to Mr. Serna for all of his help.



The sprinkler system in two of our three parks is once again working.



Parks Department workers install the new gate and fence designed to protect our parks.

The printing of this newsletter was made possible through a most generous donation from Mr. Dan McArdle.

The Rise, Fall and Resurrection of Indiana Harbor Works

Attempting to define the rise, fall and resurrection of the Indiana Harbor Works established by Mark Manufacturing is like trying to put twenty tons of steel in the back of a pick up truck. After Mark Manufacturing merged with the Schlesingers to form The Steel and Tube Company of America, Ferdinand Schlesinger died. This was not a publicly traded company. The two families owned nearly all of the stock and the Schlesinger family wanted out. As noted in the article last month, Indiana Harbor Works was sold to the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company which successfully operated it until it was acquired by the Lykes Steamship Co. of New Orleans, La.

It should be noted that during its heyday, Indiana Harbor Works had a peak employment of 14,000 workers. After the Lykes acquisition things started going poorly for Indiana Harbor Works. Lykes had gained permission from the government to depreciate the assets on an accelerated scale and in turn managed to transfer the bulk of the profit to the Lykes Corporation.

Having no other need for the facilities it was then sold to J&L Steel. From there it became LTV Steel which was followed by a merger with Republic Steel. For a very short time following this merger the company was known as LTV - Republic, a name

that would soon revert to just LTV.

But what really happened to steel nation wide and most importantly to Indiana Harbor Works? Without discussing union/management problems or foreign imports, the question can be answered much easier: Modernization of the steel making process and the elimination of secondary product lines.

Let's start with product lines. Indiana Harbor Works had four basic divisions: Flat Roll, Seamless Tube, CBW and Merchant Mill. Each of the divisions had its own accounting divisions, maintenance department and management staff. Today only flat roll product is manufactured at the site. With

the loss of diversity of product, so went literally thousands of jobs.

What about modernization? Everything produced at Indiana Harbor Works started with steel manufactured at the site. At one time four separate Open Hearth Furnace Operations were fully functioning at Indiana

Harbor. With the construction of the Basic Oxygen Furnace in the 1960's all of the Open Hearths were permanently closed. With the loss of the Open Hearths went a good number of jobs and a major reduction of energy cost per ton of steel. Later in the 1970's when the Continuous Caster was put into operation the No. 1 and No. 2 Slabbing Mills along



*The Steel and Tube Company
of America*



with the soaking pits were also closed. But that wasn't the end of the story. If you are not using a Continuous Caster you have to pour the steel into molds. Without the need for the molds we also eliminated the pattern shop, the mold shop and the foundry operations. With each stage of modernization and with the elimination of each product line, fewer and fewer employees were needed for the manufacture of steel. With the modernization also came a saving in reference to energy consumption.

In 1984, the merger of Republic Steel and Jones & Laughlin Steel formed LTV Steel Company - the nation's second largest steel maker. But forecasted improvements in the steel industry failed to materialize. Steel orders throughout the industry deteriorated and on July 17, 1986, LTV filed for Chapter 11 protection. Management felt the move would provide opportunities to reduce operating costs, streamline operations and strengthen the company's position in the marketplace.

One of the first steps was to idle unprofitable plants and facilities that had served depressed market segments and contributed to operating losses. From 1984 to 1991, LTV Steel reduced its steelmaking capacity by 58 percent. LTV Steel also cut its workforce by 58 percent.

In July 1993, LTV emerged from Chapter 11, however, in October 1998, a flood of unfairly traded steel imports began to pose major problems for most of the domestic steel industry. On December 29,

2000, the LTV Corporation once again was forced to file for Chapter 11 protection. Restructuring efforts began in April 2001 but extremely poor market conditions, coupled with the unfair trade practices were too severe and the company was unable to recover. Finally on November 20, 2001, LTV sought bankruptcy court approval to cease operations and sell its remaining integrated steel facilities.

But the Indiana Harbor story did not end here. Instead, W.L. Ross and Co. LLC, a visionary investment company, purchased the remaining assets of LTV Steel including the Indiana Harbor plant in April 2002. The new company would become International Steel Group Inc.

Today, ISG is one of the most competitive steel producing companies in America. ISG's Indiana Harbor facility operates with just 1,500 employees and is capable of producing 3.4 million tons of steel shipments a year. ISG Indiana Harbor continues to be an industry leader in technology, quality and customer satisfaction. ISG is here to stay!



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Footnote: Did you realize that the three major steel manufacturing companies in the

United States all have manufacturing facilities here in East Chicago? It's true! Ispat Inland, ISG Indiana Harbor and US Steel (the old YS&T Tin products) are all located within one mile of each other.



STARS PROGRAM WRAPS UP WITH A BANG!

By the time that this newsletter is in print, the summer will be just about over, the children of our community will be back in school and the STARS program will be but a fond memory. As we stated in the July issue of UPDATE, the STARS program was one of the most innovative programs to have come our way in years.

STARS stands for Students Targeted to Reaching Success and was held as an in-house summer camp at community centers across all of East Chicago. The concept for the program was simple. Our children deserve a place that is safe and fun to play, to learn, and to experience life. The STARS program was all of that and more.

Virtually everyday was filled with activities from games and sports to activities designed especially to meet certain age and individual characteristics. The goal was to help our youth build strong character by experiencing a variety of cultures, learning new sports, learning more about themselves and acquiring important skills to handle various life issues.

So, just how did the program work and who managed it so well? Well, that like all other things in this community took some teamwork. The leader of the project, also known as The Tutor was Ms Maria Perez (no relation) who is the proud single mother of three children, all of whom have or will be attending college. That in itself is not only an accomplishment but a job qualification for this program. She was assisted by two young East Chicago residents, both of whom are in college. The first is Carlos

Villarreal, age 19 who is a Finance and Management major at Indiana University, Bloomington. The second assistant was Jorge Arreola, also age 19, who is a Building Construction management major at Purdue University Lafayette.

The Three Musketeers as they have been referred, were assisted greatly by our own Two Judy's, Judy Grindey and Judy Hicks and our two Recreation Department summer employees Angie McCormick and David Rodriguez.

The Recreation Department provided the STARS Staff with the basic teaching outline and curriculum. The

rest was up to the staff. At an early point in the program it was decided that one of the things that our children needed work in was reading comprehension and writing skills. Ms Maria began immediately to meet that challenge. She developed reading, research and writing programs that not only



The Three Musketeers of the Marktown STARS Program. Jorge Arreola (left), Maria Perez (center) and Carlos Villarreal (right) worked hand in hand with the Two Judy's, David Rodriguez and Angie McCormick to keep our children mentally and physically active all summer long.

challenged the children's skills, but sewed the seeds of curiosity from which grows the fruit of knowledge. One of the research projects was in reference to the history of the State of Indiana. Another was on the Indianapolis 500 Race. The third project was on Abraham Lincoln. Then it was the Solar System and finally, on the history of the Marktown Historic District.

Just how innovative was her project? Would you believe that it was picked up by the Director of Recreation and used at the other centers which offered the STARS program?

Ms Maria noted "If you want to get chil-

dren involved, you have to make it interesting. When we began the research on the Indy 500 we had each of the children build their own model race car. That got their attention really quick. Even the girls enjoyed it."

"When we began some of the writing assignments we decided if Paul Myers could put out a newsletter, so could we. During the summer months the children researched and wrote articles for two really great children's newsletters. They were thrilled and we all learned a great deal."

So, why did East Chicago hire college students from this city to work with our children this summer? That's simple - Role models! But the learning wasn't restricted to the children in our community. The young assistants to Ms Maria learned a great deal also. When asked what they learned they both responded "Patience enough to work with young children, and the fact that doing so was personally rewarding. They are great kids! They just need positive role models and the opportunity to succeed."

The following articles were written by some of the Marktown children who participated in the STARS program. We thank them for their efforts and imagination. P.S. They designed the logo also.

MARKTOWN

*by Stephanie Navarro -
age 11*

Marktown was built in 1917. It was built about 85-86 years ago. The original plan was to cover more than 20 acres of land. Marktown is a small village that Chicago Industrialist Clayton Mark Sr. founded. He liked Howard Shaw, a well known Chicago architect of both commercial and residential structures to design Marktown. World War I halted the plan to construct a community complete with schools, church, and stores. Each major war brought

a new mill. World War II brought the Rolling Mill. The Tin Mill came from the Korean War. That's how Marktown became surrounded with mills. Today the Marktown Historical District is a living community. Building in the past for regeneration. Thanks to the vision of the residents of Marktown working together, efforts and the leadership of East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastirck. Marktown is once again "Rising from the Mist." The Marktown Historic District is located in the City of East Chicago, Indiana just 1/2 mile south of Lake Michigan. Only 3 miles east of the Indiana Illinois boarder. It is surrounded by ISG (formerly LTV Steel) on three sides and by BP (formerly AMOCO) Oil Refinery of Whiting, Indiana on the forth side.

MARKTOWN

by Jesus Cavazos - age 12

In 1917 Marktown was built by Howard Van Doren Shaw, who was hired by Clayton Mark. Sr. In the original design there was a garage complex, stores, schools, fields and a boarding house. Due to the effects of World War I it prevented the completion of the original design. The community was surrounded by fields, forest and a lake but the industry eliminated the field and forest. Today Marktown has be-

come a National Landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

MARKTOWN

by Vanessa Soto - age 11

But a mere 10 years ago, several company towns existed on Chicago's south side and in northwest Indiana. Marktown Company was built in 1917. Marktown originally called for housing for 8000 employees. In the 1920's

Marktown was a model of neatness and architectural perfection. All together, Marktown comprises nearly 200 units in five floor plans and eleven exterior designs. In the 1970's many steel mills closed. Houses need a level of reinvestment that residents cannot afford. Marktown is a great place to play with your friends in the park or at the Community Center with Ms Maria and the Two Judy's.



FIXING BROKEN WINDOWS...

Pulling Weeds and Eliminating Graffiti! by Paul A. Myers

This past month, following the tragic events on Dickey Road, I made it a point to meet with the Federal Prosecutor, the East Chicago Police Department and members of the Lake County Prosecutors Office in reference to what it will take to reverse the social decline of neighborhoods such as ours. The bottom line of all three conversations was simple: WE HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER! Wow. Have you heard that somewhere before? One of the comments made at Mr. Van Bokkelen's office was in reference to a recently released book titled "*Fixing Broken Windows: Restoring Order and Reducing Crime in Our Communities*" by George L. Kelling and Catherine M. Coles. No it's not about how to remove broken glass and re-glaze the window. It's about the basic problems in our society and what we need to do to reverse the downward spiraling moral values in our neighborhoods.

The fore page of the book has the following quote:

"The police at all times should maintain a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and that the public are the police; the police are only the members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interest of community welfare." ---

Sir Robert Peel
Founder, London Metropolitan Police 1929

Guess what? It is still true today! We are the first line of defense in our neighborhoods, especially one as isolated as the Marktown Historic District.

But what about these broken windows? The title - Fixing Broken Windows --- is an allusion to an essay Kelling published in *The Atlantic Monthly* in March 1982. He used the image of broken windows to explain how neighborhoods, like ours, might decay into disorder and even crime if no one attends faithfully to their maintenance. If a window of a house is broken, passersby observing it will conclude that no one cares or no one is in charge. In time, a few will begin throwing rocks to break more windows. Soon all the windows will be broken, and now the passersby will think that, not only is no one in charge of the building, no one is in charge of the street on which it faces. Only the young, the criminal, or the foolhardy have any business on an unprotected avenue, and so more and more citizens will abandon the street to those they assume prowl it. Small disorders lead to larger and larger ones, and perhaps even to crime.

So, just what is the problem? Is it the broken window, or is it being good neighbors and protecting

EVERYONE'S property from being vandalized by the youth of the community? Well, it's both. But let's look at some other problems that this community faces today or has faced in the past.

About ten to twelve years ago we had a major problem with graffiti. The columns of the pavilion in the Old Park as well as the park maintenance building were constantly covered with graffiti. One suggestion was that the concrete be sandblasted and that would solve the problem. No. The cost of sandblasting is prohibitive and the cost of paint is cheap. The solution was to have the pavilion and the maintenance building painted gray and the neighborhood be given several gallons of identical gray paint so that the graffiti could be painted over time and time again. To make a long story short we eliminated the graffiti from both structures within one year and it has not been back in years.

So, what about weeds on the street and sidewalks? Have you noticed that Prospect, Spring, Liberty and Park Streets (400 blocks only) are relatively weed free? That's because the residents on these streets are WORKING TOGETHER to keep the weeds out. Some used their own equipment. Some residents borrowed others and in at least one case the equipment was rented. The bottom line is that the lack of weeds shows people that the residents on those blocks care and that



this might not be the place you want to start breaking windows. The term is COMMUNITY PRIDE!

Let's get back to the broken window problem. Is the problem the owner of the building? Only to an extent. The owner didn't break the window! Is it the building department? Not really. They didn't break the window either! The problem once again is the handful of children in this community that the parents have not taught right from wrong. They have not taught them to respect their own property, others property or even public property.

I will almost guarantee that if you went to one of the parents they would do one of two things: 1) deny that their child had anything to do with it, or 2) blame the person who had the windows broken because it was obviously their fault that their child broke the window.

How do we stop it? We all have to be responsible citizens. We all have to watch out for one another. Parents of unattended children have to be responsible parents or the rocks that they throw at windows today will become bullets in guns that they shoot at innocent victims tomorrow. The choice is simple. Stop the vandalism and save YOUR child!