



MARKTOWN UPDATE

A publication of the Marktown Preservation Society

September 2004

Marktown Tours Planned for September

For the past fifteen years Paul Myers has conducted tours of the Marktown Historic District for individuals and groups on a by appointment basis only. With the demand for the tours increasing, public interest in relation to historic preservation expanding, and the condition of the Marktown Historic District improving by leaps and bounds, the decision was made early this summer to finally open the tours to the general public without reservations being required. We would like to point out that the very first tours that we conducted were for the Art Institute of Chicago, at which time members of both the Howard Shaw and Clayton Mark families were in attendance.

The tour dates for the 2004 season have been set for Saturday and Sunday, September 18th and 19th. The tours will be held at 10:30 AM and 2:30 PM on both days. The Sunday morning tour will be reserved for prior Marktown residents and their families only. Each tour is expected to last about an hour and a half to two hours and will include a house tour of one six room duplex and a walking tour of the entire neighborhood as laid out 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 \$3.00 with all proceeds to go directly to the Mark-

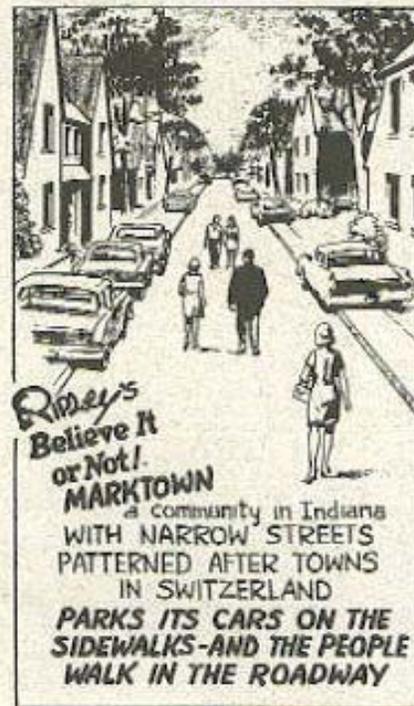
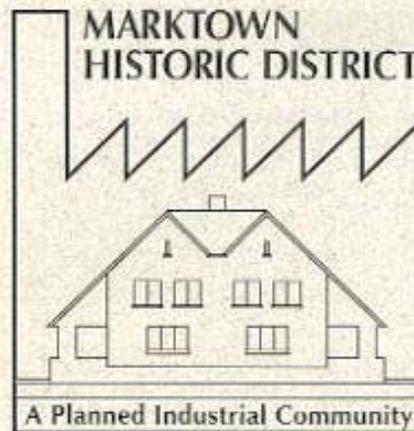
town Preservation Society. But what about Marktown residents who would like to learn more about their community? We have a special tour planned

just for residents. On Friday, September 17th at 6:00 PM a tour will be held (absolutely free of charge) for residents and their families. This is our way of sharing our neighborhood with everyone in the neighborhood and the Calumet Region.

What can you expect to learn from the tour? Just about anything you ever wanted to know about the Marktown Historic District, the adjacent steel mills and the overall history of this most unique and endangered neighborhood.

All tours will begin at 405 Prospect Street. Paul's home will be opened to the public. Once everyone is back outside we will follow the standard tour that we developed fifteen years ago. The tour will take participants to all four sections of Marktown and will end back where we started on Prospect Street.

For those coming from out of town who have never been here before we suggest that you check our web page at www.marktown.org for instructions as to how to find us. Parking is recommended on Pine and Broad Streets with additional parking at the old Mark Hotel site on Riley Road. If you have additional questions please give Paul a call at (219) 397-2239. See you there.



The Marktown Walking Tour Map is now in it's third edition and will once again be used as a handout to those who participate in the tours this month. If you would like a copy please stop by the Old Community Center and pick up a copy - they're FREE to all!

visit us on line at www.marktown.org

MPS Works With Riley Road Residents To Resolve Parking Problem

Riley Road is one of the most travelled streets in East Chicago and as we all know it is a key link to not only the Marktown Historic District and ISG Indiana Harbor works, but it also sets the mood for the conditions in our neighborhood. Several months ago the area across the street from the Riley Road homes began to be cleaned up, and it was about time. There were two stolen vehicles on the property that no one appeared to have noticed. There were also a number of cars parked there with either expired plates or that had not been driven in months.

Quite simply the area looked bad and that made Mark-



town and everyone else at this end of Riley Road look equally bad.

After the vehicles were removed, the brush was cut down and what there was of a lawn was mowed. No parking signs went up along that side of Riley Road. When the residents of Riley Road came to the Marktown Preservation Society with their grievance we stepped in and negotiated additional parking for them at the parking lot adjacent to the old Mark Hotel on the 500 block of Riley Road. After all, if the residents of the 500 block of Lilac Street can park there, then why can't they. Riley Road hasn't looked this good in years!

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The Seal of the City of East Chicago...

Many have driven past City Hall and seen the city seal on the west elevation of the Mayor's Office or have entered City Hall from the south entrance and seen the official city seal on the floor of the lobby. The city seal is one of the most historic emblems that we have. It like the city flag was designed in 1967 during East Chicago's Diamond Jubilee (75th Anniversary). We thought you might be interested in just what it represents.

The shield represents the national spirit of East Chicago and contains the historical past and present. The canoe represents the mode of travel of the first explorers in this vicinity. The canal depicts the ship canal which bisects the city and joins the Grand Calumet River to Lake Michigan. The bee hive with sixty bees represents the activity and the industry generated by those industries in East Chicago: the inscription in Latin "INDUSTRIOSUS" Means "Abounding in Industry."

The Jesuit Priest represents the influence of

the Society of Jesus and the intrepid explorers who were the first white men in the vicinity, Pere Marquette, Louis Jolliet, Rene Robert Cavalier, and Sieur De La Salle, all of whom took Jesuit orders.



St. George slaying the two-headed dragon is symbolic of the efforts of East Chicago to combat pollution of both air and waters. The Indian chief represents the first settlers of this area, the Miama, Potawatomi and Shawnee Indian Tribes, their spectacular defeats of white invaders and their own ultimate defeat. "PROGREDRMUR" is the city motto and means "We Progress." 1893 in the seal is the date of the incorporation of East Chicago as a City.

The next time you see the official city seal on letterhead or at City Hall try to remember that this city has a truly remarkable heritage. It is with pleasure that we present a segment of East Chicago's history to our readers. Understanding history is important if we want to plan for the future!

Last month we explained about the history of the city flag. This month we thought we would share the history of the city seal. We hope you enjoyed reading about our history!

Rojas Picnic A Treat For The Entire Neighborhood

When George Rojas knocked on the door of Marktown Preservation Society founder Paul Myers and asked what it would take to have his family/company picnic at the pavilion in the Marktown Center Park once again, Paul laughed and said "All you have to do is go to the Parks Department Office in Indiana Harbor and tell them what you want. You don't need my permission or anyone else's permission except the Parks Department" and you know what, Paul was right.

While the picnic did not start until 1 PM the setup began the night before when the custom made band stand was delivered. The morning of the event found the entire Rojas family in the park setting up

and preparing for the 100+ family members and guests to arrive. The large bar-b-que grills were set up and the cooking began early and lasted virtually all day.

For those that may have been concerned about the band, that wasn't a problem either. The music was great and could be heard in the background throughout the neighborhood. As for hospitality, it was unbeatable. You didn't have to be a family member to stop in for something to eat or drink.

By the time the event was over at about 9:00 PM the park had been totally cleaned up and the place looked great. Wouldn't it have been nice to have had this at the New Marktown Community Center?



Sewer Pump Station Gets Landscape Face Lift

Several years ago the Utilities Division upgraded the sewer pump house on the corner of Broad Street and Spruce Avenue. The purpose of the upgrade was twofold: 1) the original 1917 pumps and motors were still in place and desperately needed upgrading, and 2) a staircase was added in the wing of the building which would facilitate a safer means of maintenance for those working on or servicing the facility.

Added to the project was a new radio and computer system that would link tiny little Marktown and it's pump house with the Utilities Division central office and maintenance facility.

They also designed a great

safety backup system which permits the Utilities Division to bring in a secondary emergency pump to the site just in case there is a power failure.

While the vast majority of the work was completed under the 1999 contract, the only item that appeared to be left unfinished was the landscape, that is until just this past month. Director of Utilities Mr. Michael Suty took care of the landscaping in a grand fashion. The entire parkway was totally dug up and professionally sodded. An automatic sprinkler system was installed and two great ash trees were added to the site. Our special thanks goes to Mr. Suty for remembering Marktown!



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

Positive Things Are Happening In Marktown! by Paul A. Myers

No matter who I speak to I hear the same comments - **"Positive things are happening in Marktown"** and they are right, they are. We've heard from current resident, past residents, politicians, architects and yes, people who have made it a point of attending the architectural tours for the past fifteen years and they are all in agreement - Positive things are happening in Marktown.

Back in the 1970s we had a problem with what we called estate properties - properties owned by the families of people that had lived there. The property values were so low that the family couldn't realize any advantage from selling them. In the 1980s we had a problem with rental properties, and in particular with properties owned by out of town landlords. During that decade nearly fifty percent of the properties in Marktown were rental units.

In the 1990s the problem was vacant properties with nearly 80 of the 220 homes vacant, but that's all changing now and with some help from all of our residents it will continue to change for decades to come.

So, what's brought about these changes you ask? Well we've asked that question too and the answer is not as easy to find as one might think. Let's take a look at just what has changed. To begin with our parks have not looked this good in years. The change in our parks has been brought about by two factors: 1) the Parks Department has changed their approach to maintenance and cooperation, and 2) the Marktown Preservation Society is always there to lend a hand. Whether it was by helping to clean up the tennis courts or working with maintenance crews to find the lost sprinkler system - we've been there. We even walk through the park in the morning and pick up the trash that somehow always manages to show up at first light.

We have a greater degree of cooperation and participation from the Street and Sanitation Departments. Once a week we send a fax to the Street Department listing all of the locations of debris in our neighborhood, and the next thing we know it is gone. When we get a crew of volunteers together to clean up a street and remove the weeds and bushes that grow out of the sidewalks and along the buildings, all we have to do is call the Solid Waste Division and the next thing we know the street sweepers are here.

The stories of municipal cooperation between this neighborhood and the city of East Chicago go on forever, but there is more to this than just that. People, our neighbors and doing things also. There have been more new roofs in Marktown in the past three years than in the previous twenty years. Homes that were vacant have new owners or the old owners have decided to reinvest in their property and in this community.

Gardens are popping up like tulips in the spring time and lawns are being maintained to a greater degree than in recent years. There is a new spirit in this neighborhood

and all of the residents know it. Did anyone notice the seven-room duplex on Riley Road that is being painted. For the first time in a long time, both sides will be the same color and the residents are doing a GREAT job on the house. Historic preservation may not have been defined in this neighborhood, but our neighbors are working together more now than they have in years.

While we can not totally define what has caused this shift in attitude, we do know that Marktown Update has played an important part in jump starting the process. The Marktown Preservation Society is here to do just that, preserve Marktown!



Let's start and think "RESTORATION" and not just "RENOVATION."

Marktown and our Dillinger Connections by Paul A. Myers

Believe it or not, Marktown has it's own Dillinger connections. But if anyone has the impression that we have bragging rights because of it your as dead wrong as John Dillinger was.

The date was January 30, 1934, the place was the Lake County Jail in Crown Point. John Dillinger had been captured by Tucson, Arizona Police and was extradited to Indiana to face charges of murdering E.C. Patrolman O'Malley. On his first day in jail he posed with Lake County Prosecutor Robert G. Estill. The next day the photograph appeared in virtually all of the Lake County based newspapers and the political career of Mr. Estill came to a complete halt.

It should be noted that there was an election scheduled for that spring. At the time Mr. Estill was being groomed for the office of Indiana Governor. Following his loss in the next election Mr.

Estill became a corporate attorney for the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company (YS&T), the successor to Mark Manufacturing Co. and the predecessor company to what is now ISG Indiana Harbor.

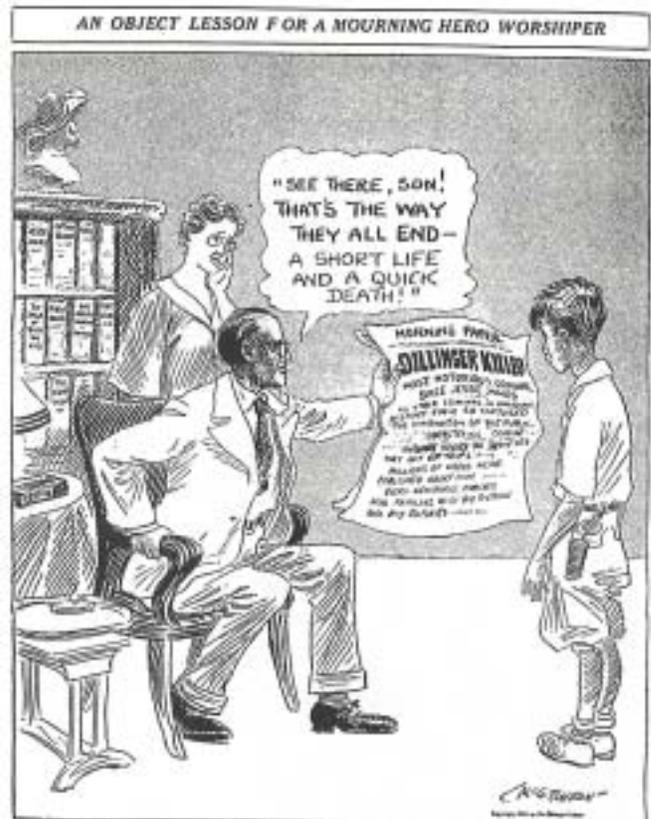
As a senior member of staff with YS&T the Estill family moved into 415 Broad Street at the corner of Broad Street and Spruce Avenue. The Estill family lived quite comfortably there for a number of years and Mr. Estill also became corporate council for East Chicago.

The Dillinger connection to Marktown doesn't end there. The cartoon titled "**An Object Lesson For A Mourning Hero Worshiper**" from the Chicago Tribune dated 7/24/34 was drawn by John T. McCutcheon. John McCutcheon was married to Evelyn Shaw, one of the daughters of Marktown Architect Howard Van Doren Shaw. Mr. McCutcheon was the first Pulitzer Prize recipient at the Chicago Tribune Company.

Despite popular opinion, crime doesn't pay. If the only claim to fame for Marktown is the Dillinger connection, then we would be in a great deal of trouble, just like John Dillinger was!



*Top: Lake County Prosecutor Robert G. Estill (left) poses with John Dillinger (right) at the Lake County Jail. 1934
Bottom: Marktown supervisor homes. The home on the far left (415 Broad) became the Estill home in later years.*



**Working together to clean up the Marktown Historic District is the key to our future.
Let's all pitch in and work as one for the betterment of everyone.**

Need a New Mailbox? MPS Can Help!

While delivering Marktown Update and neighborhood flyers these past two years we have noticed that there are a number of mailboxes that need to be replaced in Marktown. The Marktown Preservation Society is pleased to provide new service to our neighbors and residents. It's call the **New Mailbox Program**. Catchy name isn't it?

So, just what does it take to get a new mailbox at your home? Give Paul Myers a call at 397-2239 and he will be more than glad to pick up a new one and install it for you. Prices will be available for

two different mail box designs. The only thing you will have to pay for is the box itself, the installation will be FREE. That's right, installation is free to anyone who wants to replace that old mail box with a shiny new one. If you want to purchase your own mailbox and have us install it, that's fine too! We'd be more than glad to do so.

Keep your mail dry and out of harms way the easy way - let the Marktown Preservation Society install your new mailbox TODAY! Offer available through October 31, 2004.



First Time in 30 Years EC Senior All Star Team Wins District One Championship

and Marktown's own Ryan Rodriguez was a part of that effort



EC Civic Little League

Senior All Star Indiana District One Champions 2004

Back row: Coach Everardo Pena, Coach AJ Rodriguez, Joshua Rivera, Obed Perez, Michael Peebles, David Almaraz, Jimmy Flores, Kyle Koliboski, Coach Randy Hernandez, Manager Carlos Pena

Front row: Robert Escobedo, Vincent Alvarado, Jonathan Cardenas, Ryan Rodriguez, Fabian Rodriguez, Jason Flores

The Marktown Preservation Society is preserving the past for future generations of Marktown, East Chicago, the state and the nation!

Marktown's Secret & Not So Secret Gardens... In Bloom On Your Block And All Around OUR Neighborhood!



Earlier this year we published an article about the Garden City concept under which Marktown was originally designed and we encouraged our neighbors to participate in the expansion of the gardens in Marktown. We would have to publish an entire book to provide full coverage of all of the gardens that have popped up or expanded this past season. This page is a tribute to the Marktown gardens and to those who tend them so lovingly. Let's plan ahead for next year and think BIG!



***Let's Work Together To Preserve Marktown's Unique History
And Architecture For Future Generations***

Images From The Past: Marktown Up Close



1943 Anton Family at 416 Park Street
Joseph Anton (Father), Dorothy May (sister) in the
W.A.C.s, Dorothy Anton (Mother), James (brother), Kay
(sister) & then Betty Lou in the front right.



Top: 1st grade at Marktown School 1941
Betty Lou Anton - back row - third from the right.
Can you identify any of the other people in this great old
photo? If so, drop us a note and share the who's who!

A note from a reader and past Marktown resident:

Dear Mr. Myers

July 12, 2004

My sister and I decided to take a ride to Marktown today. We were extremely surprised at all the improvements that have taken place since we were there a year ago.

We literally were "thrilled" at our precious little community that has always meant so much to us. I hope all who live there can realize how much Marktown means to us who used to live there dating back to 1926.

God Bless and take care of you all. Please keep up the good work and especially that great little newsletter - Marktown Update.

Sincerely, Betty Lou (Anton) Suter

Editor's Note:

We are always pleased to hear from our readers and from people who have made this most unique neighborhood their home in the past. We were thrilled to see just how much people perceive the positive changes in this community over the past few years and hope that we have been a part of making this most unique community a better, cleaner and safer place to live and to raise our families. We thank Betty Lou for sharing her thoughts and her photographs with us for this month's issue of Marktown Update.



New Marktown Community Center Construction Update

Forget they ever mentioned it!

It's not happening!



Marktown Update is a monthly publication of the Marktown Preservation Society which is dedicated to the restoration and preservation of the Marktown Historic District.

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With TEAMWORK, Everything is Possible!

