

## Christmas In Marktown - 1953



### 80,000 Calumet Residents See Yule Display

The Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company's annual Christmas tree is gone but its memory lingers on.

For two full weeks the brightly illuminated tree revolved in all its beauty to entertain probably 80,000 Calumet district residents. More than 16,000 cars loaded with travelers stopped at the plant to see the tree and listen to the music.

From December 19 through New Year's Day the tree was illuminated from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. And on the three days before Christmas - Dec. 22, 23 and 24, it also was illuminated from 6 to 8 A.M.

This year's tree attracted the biggest group of spectators in the years the company has arranged this holiday feature.

#### Made of 200 Trees

Standing 40 feet high, the tree was made from 200 smaller Christmas trees. More trees were used in front of the Tin Mill

Office building. At the east end of the building was an illuminated church and on the top of the building was a cutout of reindeers pulling Santa in his sleigh. More than 2,500 lights were used for the exhibit.

Every seven minutes the large tree made a complete revolution. As it revolved Christmas carols filled the air with music.

There was a good crowd to see the tree every night it was illuminated. And there has been much comment from many of the visitors on the beauty of the scene.

*The Yield - a publication of YS&T Co.  
January 1954*

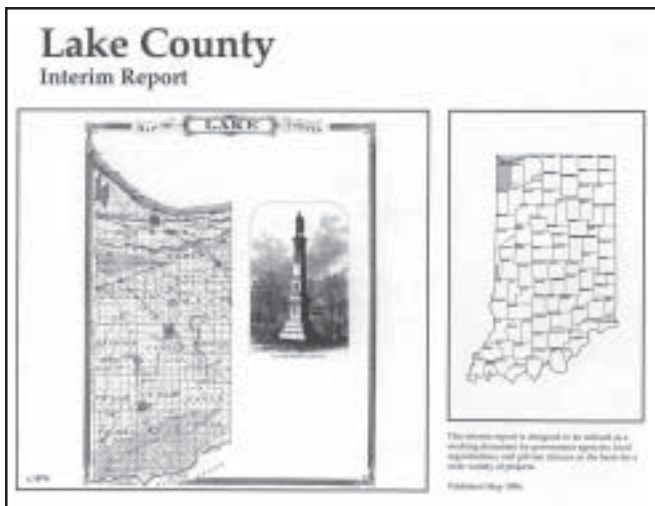
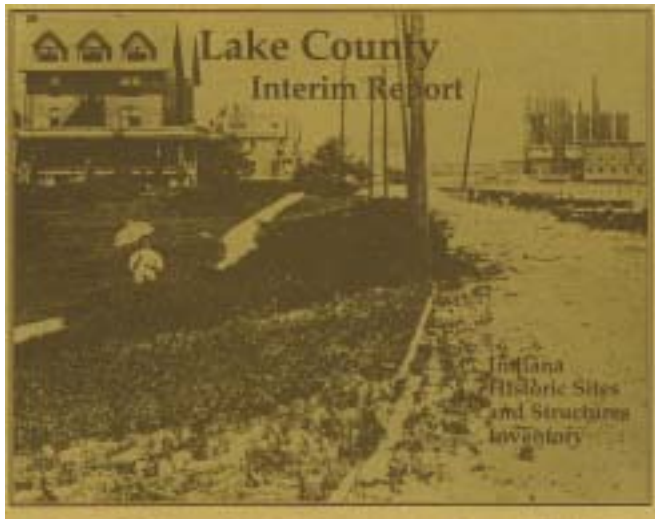


#### Christmas Today

Needless to say, Christmas is not celebrated by industry today as it had been in the past. But then again, none of the major companies appear to be owned domestically. Youngstown Sheet & Tube and Inland Steel are both now Mittal Steel and that's a foreign held company.

When many of us grew up, Standard Oil would decorate a portion of their refinery with Christmas lights and large white stars atop a particular unit on Indianapolis Boulevard. You could see it from the South Shore station in Roxanna. It was great! But then again, Standard Oil is now BP or British Petroleum. Wouldn't it be nice if corporations would once again celebrate the holidays in a much more public way today as they did those many years ago. Well, maybe next year they will begin the practice anew. Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.

# Restoring East Chicago's Historic Past



*The interim report is designed to be utilized as a working document by government agencies, local organizations, and private citizens as the basis for a wide variety of projects. It was first published in 1996 and is scheduled for revision in the next few years. When it was first published 675 buildings in East Chicago were included in the report. Exactly how many have been lost is unknown at this time.*



## Lake County Interim Report

### Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

The major impetus for a comprehensive inventory of Indiana's cultural resources came from the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The Act declared it the policy of the federal government to foster the preservation of our cultural resources in partnership with the states, local governments, and the private sector. In order to implement this policy, the Act created the National Register of Historic Places, composed of buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. It also established a partnership between the federal government and the states, whereby each state developed a state historic preservation program to be approved by the U.S. Secretary of Interior. To gain approval, the governor of the state must appoint a State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and a State Review Board must be appointed. One of the responsibilities of the SHPO is to conduct a comprehensive statewide survey of historic properties and maintain inventories of such properties for the purpose of locating, identifying, and evaluating cultural resources. Another responsibility is to ensure that historic properties are taken into consideration in planning and development through the environmental review process.

In 1971, the Indiana State Legislature authorized creation of a state preservation program within the Department of Natural Resources, and the Department's director was designated as the SHPO. The first full-time staff was hired in 1973, and the comprehensive survey program began in earnest in 1975. In 1978, an initial five-county survey project was completed by Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana utilizing federal grants-in-aid administered by the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology. An average of three counties has been inventoried by the Foundation each year.

### About Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana

In 1960, alarmed by the loss of defining historic buildings in the capital city, a group of Indianapolis civic leaders created Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. The organization established by those volunteers now ranks as the largest private statewide preservation group in the United States, with an Indianapolis headquarters and nine

regional offices staffed by professionals who help Hoosiers save and restore old buildings. The Calumet Region Office in the Miller section of Gary serves all of Northwest Indiana.

## 15 Most Historic Structures & Districts in East Chicago, Indiana

### About This Report

After four decades of razing entire sectors of East Chicago for redevelopment projects that did not materialize, the decision was made to begin the process of celebrating our historic past through the restoration and preservation of our architectural heritage. While there are more than 600 historic properties that merit our attention, we have been asked to limit this first report to but fifteen properties. In doing so, we have identified five districts and ten individual structures as listed herein.

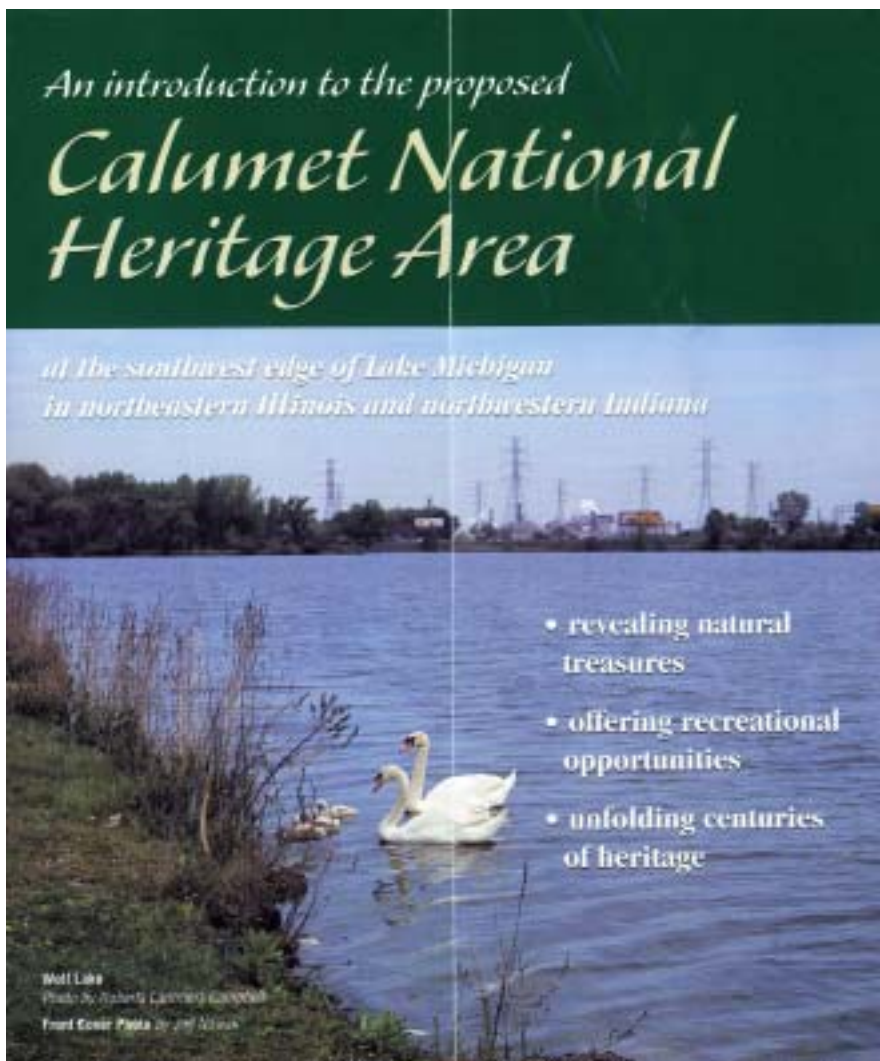
1. Carnegie Library
2. Lake County Superior Court Building
3. Riley Bank Building
4. Washington Park Historic District
5. Block Stadium
6. Euclid Avenue Chicago Three-Flats
7. Alder Street Classic Two-Flats
8. Main Street Historic District
9. St. George Serbian Orthodox Church
10. Wickey House
11. First Congregational Church
12. City Hall
13. Main Post Office
14. Inland Steel Office Building
15. Marktown Historic District

This list was compiled by Paul A. Myers in cooperation with Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana's Calumet Region Office  
 563 South Lake Street  
 Gary, Indiana 46407  
 (219) 938-2200

If you would like to learn more about historic preservation efforts in your community please contact HLIF at the above telephone number or Paul A. Myers at (219) 397-2239.



# Revisiting The Calumet Heritage Corridor..



## **What is the Calumet National Heritage Area?**

The proposed Calumet National Heritage Area wraps around the southwestern end of Lake Michigan, reaching from the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore on the east to the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor on the west. Including southern section of Chicago and extending well into Indiana, the Calumet Region is a premier example of our country's urban and industrial growth over more than 100 years. With this growth have been dramatic impacts on the natural beauty and environment of a region where lake meets prairie and woodlands.

Heavy industries grew in the lake 1800s as railroads came into

the region and Great Lakes shipping increased. In those energetic days, these steel plants were models for the world and surrounding lakes and wetlands were altered, filled and contaminated without thought.

Once a wilderness of dunes, lakes and marshes, the region still has the highest concentration of diverse natural environments of any region in the Great Lakes. It is, in fact, a globally significant ecosystem.

In and around these areas of natural richness, the legacy of the struggle of workingmen in America took place. The creation of Pullman and Marktown and the great steel works on the lakefront, the 1894 Pullman workers' strike and the early strikes here in East Chi-

cago coupled with the 1937 Memorial Day massacre at Republic Steel are major milestones in the history of American industry and labor.

## **What about the Marktown & Pullman Districts?**

Both are included in the proposed National Heritage Area.

Pullman was built as a social experiment in controlling the work force of the Pullman Palace Car Company. The Pullman Historic District, was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1970 in recognition of its significance as an industrial community, as well as its association with the 1894 railroad strike.

The Marktown Historic District, listed on the National Register in 1975, is an example of an early 20th century industrial-sponsored development. Today, it is completely surrounded by industrial development, but is remarkably intact and still features a dense spatial arrangement of dwellings, yards and streets.

Marktown was designed in 1917 by Howard Van Doren Shaw, who was hired by Clayton Mark to create a community to house workers in his Indiana Harbor manufacturing plant. The community layout and its houses reflect a European influence; the lots are square, the roads narrow, and the houses close to the street. Many of the house are duplexes, which are two stories and connect on their rear elevations, facing their side yards in opposite directions. It's developer, Mark Manufacturing Company, originally owned Marktown. Marktown represents the planned industrial community movement of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and is reflective of the social awareness programs spawned by the effects of the industrial revolution.

***The proposed Calumet National Heritage Area is parrallel in concept to the Marquette Plan. Together, these two outstanding visions could help to resolve the quality of life issues of today.***

# ...An Opportunity For All In The Calumet Region!

## National Heritage Areas

Protection and public enjoyment of natural, cultural and recreational resources in the Calumet Region would be possible through National Heritage Area designation. Designation would enable national recognition of the region as an example of America's industrial prominence in the 20th century, the corresponding growth and development of its labor movement, and the extensive environmental modifications to accommodate industrialization. For example, less than .001 percent remain of the original tallgrass prairie in Illinois. These remnants portray the extent of the regional modification since European settlement, while containing the genetic material necessary for future eco-

logical viability.

Today, the Calumet Region exists as a unique mosaic of globally rare natural communities and significant historic features in juxtaposition with heavy industry. Heritage area designation would afford the rare opportunity to revitalize an industrialized region and protect natural communities demonstrating benefits to both the built and natural environment. Interpretive and recreational programs could be funded through grants serving the local population. Public amenities, facilities, and transportation systems are abundant in the region, because of its urbanization.

The National Park Service could facilitate coordination and provide technical assistance to

the community. While there is widespread public interest in preserving the region's important natural and cultural values, formal designation of this area is compromised by fragmentation among State and local governments, as well as the tendency for special interest groups to focus on a specific resource or geographic area.

## Editor's Note

The proposed Calumet National Heritage Area, if granted federal approval, could increase the quality of life for not only the residents of the Marktown Historic District, but more importantly that of all of the residents the Calumet Region. Approval could mean funding for the future and an increased reinvestment in our unique heritage.



**Why is the Marktown Historic District ALWAYS mentioned in plans such as this? Because Marktown is an important part of our historic past and merits restoration.**

# Marktown Yards: Appropriate Land Use Is The Key



# East Chicago Retools For Peacetime Expansion



The war is over. We continue to mourn the hundreds of young men and women from this great city who made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom for all. We also rejoice in the return of the thousands of servicemen and women who defended this great nation in a time of war and who returned home to their loved ones safe and sound.

It is time to return to the business of government and commerce. Our success in the war would not have been possible with just the service of those in the military. Across this great nation and most importantly in East Chicago manufacturing reached new heights. The steel industry and other war dedicated manufacturing firms found that women were as eager and able to man the industrial positions as their fathers and husbands had once done. If Rosie the Riveter was not from East Chicago we would be surprised.

The war effort was also supported at home with War Bond Rallies in virtually every city and town.

The Indiana Theater on Michigan Avenue was the starting point for many a rally as East Chicago citizens supported the effort with the purchase of war bonds.

But it is time to speak of the future. It is time to move forward and retool industry, commerce and government. The troops are returning home to East Chicago and with this in mind, the site of the old Roxanna Oil Company on the southern boarder of East Chicago is now home to the Roxanna neighborhood, a neighborhood of new fashionable and affordable homes for families for returning veterans.

Now in the planning phase and

just about ready for construction is the even newer Prairie Park neighborhood in Indiana Harbor. Larger, more modern brick faced homes with attached and detached garages will fill this several hundred acre site with the streets laid out in a semi-serpentine fashion.

The neighborhood is in the shadow of St. Catherine Hospital, a leading medical facility in Lake County. The hospital has recently announced an expansion of their present facility and had acquired adjacent, previously undeveloped lands which will be used for much needed parking.

Soon to be removed from Chicago Avenue will be the South Shore tracks. A new station is planned for Indianapolis Boulevard, just north of the Roxanna neighborhood. The elevated rails will permit the traffic to flow unincumbered as the passengers board and detrain on the upper level.

As for city government, a new water filtration plant is being planned for the lake front. The new facility will provide 32,000,000 gallons of water per day.

Banking too is big business as our own First National Bank now has three locations in our great city. East Chicago is the place to be in NW Indiana!



*NOTE: This article/advertisement first appeared in the 100th Anniversary of The Times in 2006. It is the second part of a three part series of articles, each of which represents a decade in East Chicago's past or future. This particular article represents the 1950s. All three articles were written by Marktownner Paul A. Myers and were sponsored by the City of East Chicago, George Pabey, Mayor.*

# Spruce Avenue Project To Be Completed In 2007

After a year of planning clear back in 1989 and 16 years of progress it looks like the completion of Spruce Avenue will not take place until spring of 2007. The primary reason for the delay is going to end up being inclement weather and the inability to pour the concrete in the areas now occupied by the wooden telephone poles along Spruce Avenue.

Weather would not have been a problem and the job would have been completed more than a month ago had a litany of problems had not beset the project throughout the summer.

That aside, it appears that, at the writing of this article, SBC (the telephone company) did not begin their work as readily as the other two utility companies, nor did they send sufficient crews or equipment to Marktown to make this happen in a more timely fashion.

One of their own

workers noted that their current priority is their fiber optic system and that the only overtime hours that are offered are on those projects.

So, what's next? If they do not complete the work in time to remove the telephone poles from the sidewalks on Spruce Avenue this winter, the general contractor will have to back fill around all of the poles and bring the subsoil up to sidewalk and curb grade.

Early next spring, once the weather permits, the wooden telephone poles would be removed, the areas around them dug back out and the concrete curbs and sidewalks would be finished.

Then again, maybe the weather will stay warm until the end of December and in January we can print a retraction. RIGHT!!!!

I guess we will all have to wait another month to see if that will happen or not. Until then a Merry Christmas to all!



## Marktown Neighborhood Meetings Begin

Javier Madrigal called, what is hoped to be the first in a series of meeting of Marktown residents on Friday, November 17th. As he explained, *"If we are going to make a positive difference in this community we need to work together and all pitch in to make things happen."* While there was no official agenda or officers for the newly formed group, a number of topics were discussed ranging from the need to have a greater police presence in Marktown to plans to beautify the community next spring.



All were in agreement that the only way to resolve the majority of the problems is to get more people involved in the neighborhood. He said he wants to see the best voter turn out ever for the primary election next year and that he will be going door to door to make sure that everyone is registered to vote.

The next meeting will be a pot luck dinner at the Marktown Community Center in January 2007. We hope that everyone will come out and help make a positive difference in OUR neighborhood.

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

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