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MSF News & Views

"NEIGHBORS, START YOUR____"

By James A. Sabens, Chair, Beautification Committee

It is fitting that we use a paraphrase of the familiar May command to announce our search for the next "Neighbor of the Season". Just as the May 500 festivities begin to take shape every spring, so also do the Meridian properties come alive after their winter's rest and bring forth new growth and color in great profusion.

The Indianapolis Motor Speedway and the Meridian Historic District have a lot in common; they are both listed in the National Register of Historic Places and have a wide name recognition.

A recent travel and convention magazine article about Indianapolis stated that until a few years ago the only thing Indy had going for it was the "Circle, the 500 Mile Race, and the stately residential area north of 38th Street along the Meridian Street area".

The writer of that article also wrote as Indianapolis had grown and prospered, he was so pleased to find that "the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and the Meridian residential district had remained viable symbols of the past and vibrant participants in Indy's growth toward a world class city".

The first Neighbors of the Season were selected by the MSF Executive Committee to start the ball rolling. Since then, the Beautification and Preservation Committee have designated a committee to receive nominations from MSF members for future Neighbors of the Season, with the next award presentation planned for late spring, 1988.

The criteria for the selection will be based not only on the effect the Neighbor has on his own property, but also on the beneficial and pleasing effect his efforts have on the general neighborhood as well as the appropriateness and effective use of materials and plantings in keeping with the character of the area.

Nominations are entertained for both maintaining and enhancing properties or areas as well as for appropriate and effective changes in keeping with the ambiance of the district.

MSF B&P Committee members applaud efforts of retrofitting, updating, and innovative use of state of the art technology and design as well as appropriate and meaningful enhancement of what is lasting and timeless.

The committee members don't wish to appear against progress or change, but they have seen over the years examples of 'doing your own thing' with replacement of original materials with something new and in vogue at a certain era, the effect of which, in a few short years, was quite alarming and jarring.

A designer friend says, "styles changes but good taste never changes". So do your own thing if you wish but ask first whether your own thing will have lasting positive effects and appearance on your property and throughout the neighborhood.

So neighbors keep your eyes open. As you drive or walk through your neighborhood and see something nice which makes the property and area look great (or greater), jot down the address and send it to the Neighbor of the Season Committee, c/o Dorothy Rynard, 5220 N. Meridian St., 46208, any time before June 10, 1988. The committee then will determine the winner of the next award. Their address, biography and description of activity will be published in the next issue of MSF News & Views. If you have any questions or suggestions call Dorothy at 257-4002.

GOVERNOR'S CUP CROQUET TOURNAMENT

The Governor's Park on the south side of the residence, will be gaily decorated with colors of red, blue, yellow and black (official croquet colors) on Sunday, June 12 for the first ever Governor's Cup Croquet Tournament.

Governor and Mrs. Robert D. Orr will host the tournament to be held from 12:30 - 4:30 p.m., with competitors moving from court to court in pursuit of the Governor's Cup Trophy. Company teams, as well as individual pairs are encouraged to enter the contest. Croquet attire de rigueur (summer whites) is encouraged.

Delicious box lunches will be available for both players and spectators to be eaten under a tent or spread on the lawn. A variety of entertainers and musicians will add to the summer fair atmosphere.

This unique event will directly benefit the restoration and refurbishing of the Governor's residence in preparation for its next occupant. A donation for this purpose from Reid Williamson and the Historic Landmarks has been acknowledged by Mrs. Orr.

MDF residents are encouraged to participate in and support what purports to be one of the most unique events ever conducted on a Meridian Street residential property.

Invitations were mailed early in May. Additional information may be obtained by calling 317/283-8171.

THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS

John C. Klein, MD

The rekindled Meridian Street Foundation has now been active for a year and at this point has become well-organized with a cadre of officers, directors and committee members.

At this stage, our membership number is reasonable. However, we would like each resident within the Foundation's area to accept the responsibility of joining with us and supporting our organization's dedication to the preservation, beautification, enhancement of the quality of life, and the camaraderie of our neighborhood.

We are fortunate to have a professional like Bob Craft to serve as the editor of our excellent and informative newsletter - *MSF News & Views*.

We are currently in the process of hurdling legal obstacles in the path of erecting historic designation signs at the north and south ends of the North Meridian Street Historic District (40th Street to Westfield Blvd.) which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Once all approvals are obtained, we will launch a fund drive in earnest.

I strongly encourage each of you to come to the Back Home to Meridian Street - Hoosier Celebration '88 reception at my home on June 3. See other articles in this issue for further details about this event. I look forward to meeting and welcoming you there.

Our progress this past year has been gratifying and we shall build further on that good foundation in the coming year with your continued support and participation.

1988 "MERIDIAN IN BLOOM" TOUR

The third annual "Meridian in Bloom Home and Garden Tour" will be staged by the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana from 1 to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, July 9 and 10, 1988. The tour will feature visits to seven specially selected residences on Meridian Street between 40th Street and Westfield Boulevard.

"Meridian in Bloom" is the only tour that focuses exclusively on the historic homes located on the city's premier thoroughfare.

"Proceeds from the tour will fund continued research on the area and, ultimately, will be used to underwrite a book on the residential architecture and social history of North Meridian Street," according to Keith O. Norwalk, Vice-President of Member Services, AAA Hoosier Motor Club and chair of the 1988 "Meridian in Bloom" tour.

Built primarily in the 1920's and '30s, homes in the Meridian Street Historic District are well-preserved examples of the 20th century revival styles of architecture which became popular immediately after World War I. Seven private homes and the current Governor's Residence will be featured on the 1988 tour. Owners of homes and their Meridian Street addresses to be included in the tour are:

John & Nina Anthony, 4305;
Mark & Maryann Fletcher, 4420;
Robert & Dorothy Rynard, 5220;
Bruce Cordingley, 5323;
Jas. Mulholland/Fred Hatfield 4403;
John Sheridian, 5243;
The Governor's Residence, 4750.

Indiana's First Lady and Meridian Street resident Mrs. Robert D. Orr is honorary chair of "Meridian in Bloom," a Hoosier Celebration '88 event.

Tickets for the tour will go on sale in June at the Historic Landmarks Foundation office, 3402 Boulevard Place; the City Center on Monument Circle or Pan Am Plaza and various branches of Indiana National Bank on each side of the city. Tickets will also be available on both days of the tour at each home on it except the Governor's Residence.

Admission will be $8 per person in advance ($7 for Historic Landmarks and Meridian Street Foundation members), and $10 at the door on the weekend of the tour. Advance sale ticket price for groups of ten or more is $6 per person in that group. Trolley transportation between tour homes is included in the price of admission.

As a curtain-raiser for the 1988 "Meridian in Bloom" tour, Historic Landmarks Foundation and the Meridian Street Foundation are co-sponsoring a special Hoosier Celebration '88 reception from 6 to 8 p.m. on June 3. Titled "Back Home to Meridian Street," this event will be held in the home of Dr. and Mrs. John Klein, 4343 N. Meridian Street (the Governor's Mansion from 1945 to 1970). The sponsoring organizations will welcome back past Indiana Governors and their families, as well as Governor and Mrs. Orr, current and former residents of Meridian Street, and other special guests.

Alice Ross and Virginia Handley are co-chairs of the "Back Home to Meridian Street" reception.

Additional information about either of these events may be obtained from Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana at 317/926-2301.

MERIDIAN STREET FOUNDATION

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4343 N. Meridian St. 283-1835

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Stanley Markuson
4621 N. Meridian St. 283-6122

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4750 N. Meridian St. 283-8171

Patrick M. Reed, Chair Crime Watch/Public Concerns Committee
4534 N. Penn. St. 283-7309

James Sabens, Chair, Beautification Committee
5354 N. Meridian St. 251-2367

Stephen R. West
4120 N. Illinois St. 283-5525

"BACK HOME TO MERIDIAN STREET" RECEPTION TO BE HELD JUNE 3

Former Indiana governors and their families, as well as Governor and Mrs. Robert D. Orr, together with former and current Meridian Street residents and others are being invited to attend a unique "Back to Meridian Street" reunion reception from 6 to 8 p.m. on June 3.

The event will be held in the Georgian Revival style residence of Dr. and Mrs. John Klein, 4343 North Meridian Street, which served as the Governor's Mansion from 1945 to 1970. Dr. Klein is president of the Meridian Street Foundation.

The reception is being co-sponsored by the Meridian Street Foundation and Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana with Virginia Handley and Alice Ross serving as co-chairs. They are assisted by Dickee Hardee, Roberta Lamberson and others from both organizations.

According to Mrs. Ross, a member of the "Meridian in Bloom" Tour Committee of the Historic Landmarks Foundation, the Foundation is anxious to hear from former residents of Meridian Street so they may be added to the invitation list for the reception.

Mrs. Ross also notes that, "we're in the process of beginning research for a book on the architecture and social history of the Meridian Street Historic District (40th Street to Westfield Boulevard), and would like to talk to those who lived and worked in these wonderful houses – their owners, those people who grew up in them, maids, cooks, gardeners and chauffeurs."

The reception will also serve as a curtain raiser for the third annual "Meridian in Bloom" house and garden tour to be held from 1 to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, July 9 and 10.

Admission to the reception will be $15 per person which will include one "Meridian in Bloom" tour ticket.

Patron Subscriptions are $50 which will include two home tour tickets and a listing in the program.

Further information about the reception can be obtained from Alice Ross (283-7405) or Tina Connor (926-2301).

PERSONAL PROFILE

James A. Sabens, MD, MSF Director

Born in Crawfordsville, IN and attended high school in New Ross where he played on the basketball and baseball teams, in the band, was active in the Future Farmers of America and was Montgomery County 4-H Corn King!

Jim received his AB degree from Wabash College in 1955 and his MD degree from Indiana University Medical School in 1957. He belonged to Lambda Chi Alpha social fraternity and German Club at Wabash College and Phi Rho Sigma medical fraternity at IU.

He is a member of the American Medical Assn., the Indiana State Medical Assn., the Marion County Medical Society, the American and Indiana Assns. of Family Physicians.

Jim is a member of the Indianapolis Athletic Club, the Contemporary Club, Meridian Street Methodist Church and is chairman of the Beautification Committee of MSF. As hobbies, he lists stock and bond investments, bridge, antiques, gardening, historic preservation, squash and jogging.

Jim's wife Peggy, is a native of Vineland, NJ and a graduate of Shortridge High School, where she was a member of the French Club and the National Honor Society. She received a BS in Medical Record Library Science from Indiana University in 1957 where she was a member of Delta Gamma sorority. She attended IU on an honors scholarship.

Peggy keeps Jim's medical office records in proper order and is a member of the Auxilliary groups of the same medical associations of which Jim is a member. She is also a member of the Meridian Street Methodist Church, Indianapolis Opera Guild, Indianapolis Ballet Wing, the Contemporary Club, Propyleum, Women's Department Club, MSF Social Committee and the Indianapolis Athletic Club.

THE MERIDIAN STREET FOUNDATION

The Meridian Street Foundation (MSF) was organized in 1960 by homeowners living on North Meridian Street, the west side of Pennsylvania, the east side of Illinois and all intersecting streets between 40th Street on the south to Westfield Boulevard on the North.

The Foundation is actively involved with issues of zoning, street widening, maintenance, beautification, signage and traffic safety. It operates as an important bridge between the Meridian-Kessler and Butler-Tarkington Associations.

MSF also works to enhance the beauty, stability, prestige, historical and architectural integrity, personal and property safety of the area.

The Foundation's social committee organizes and conducts activities that promote a neighborly cohesiveness among the area's residents. This quarterly newsletter keeps members informed of pertinent issues and concerns affecting them and their properties.

The support of every household in the MSF area is needed in order that the Foundation may accomplish its goals.

MERIDIAN-KESSLER HOME TOUR

The Meridian-Kessler Neighborhood Association Home Tour will be June 18 and 19. A Twilight Tour is planned at 7:30 p.m. June 17, featuring the home of John & Jill Failey.

Six homes will be on the regular tour. They will be those of David & Ann Bond, Roger & Debbie Broderick, James & Cindy Fisher, Eric & Theresa Halverson, John & Lois Pless.

Tickets are $6 in advance or $7 at the door. They are available from the MKNA office, AHM Graves Broad Ripple office, INB Branch at Illinois and Westfield Blvd., Down by the Ducks, Indianapolis City Center and Hamaker's Pharmacy.

MERIDIAN TIME LANDSCAPE

By James A. Sabens, Chair, MSF Beautification Committee

MSF's Beautification Committee is most pleased to learn that Dr. and Mrs. Chris Stack, 4131 N. Meridian St., Meridian neighbors since 1976, have purchased the long-neglected property at 4124 N. Meridian St. with intentions for restoration.

Chris and Ann recently shared with us their plans to have this property transformed into a lovely area which "recreates the natural flora in terms of grasses, shrubs and vegetation native and natural to this area when Indianapolis was first founded".

To achieve this objective, the Stacks have contacted New York artist Alan Sonfist. He has completed "environmental sculpture" in many areas throughout the country in both public and private sectors – from small lots in New York City to areas adjacent to museums and other public spaces.

Chris, an orthopedic physician from Chicago, and Ann, publisher of "Arts Indiana," from Annapolis, MD, purchased the lot primarily to forestall something inappropriate being built on the property. It had previously been owned by the Graddison estate and been on the market for many years.

The idea of landscaping and planting the property with year-round reeds, grasses, au naturale, occurred to Ann after hearing about Mr. Sonfist through her interest in the arts. Even though Mr. Sonfist does mostly larger projects, he did agree to accept this somewhat smaller one.

All Meridian neighbors join together in thanking the Stacks for their very thoughtful and most unique gift to our neighborhood. We will watch with great anticipation and interest as the "Meridian Time Landscape" develops.

SPECIAL FRIENDS OF MSF

Monetary contributions ranging from $25 to $100 for the financial support of this newsletter have been made by the following Special Friends of MSF and are herewith gratefully acknowledged:

Ellen Aufderheide, Rachel F. Beck, Mary Joe Campbell*, Robert L. Craft, Virginia Handley, John and Elaine Klein, George H. Maley, Stan and Barbara Markuson, Jay and Sally Peacock*, James A. Sabens, M/M John Schaler, Gene and Beverely Scott, Charles E. Test, Timothy and Catherine Wright, Mildred Young.

All MSF members and neighbors are encouraged to join with these Special Friends in support of their Foundation's quarterly newsletter. Make checks payable to MSF Newsletter and send to John C. Klein, MD, 4343 North Meridian Street, 46208. Thank you.

*New since last publication.

A NEW "OLD MASTER"

James A. Sabens, Chair, MSF Beautification Committee

For those of us who complain that when studying most contemporary art, we can't tell which is the canvas and which is the artist's paint rag, take heart – for in our Meridian Street neighborhood there is a very prominent artist, Frederik W. Grue, whose residence is on West 52nd Street.

This self-taught 36-year old California born artist began painting in oils at the age of eight.

His great uncle was a well known Belgian portrait painter whose works are in the Louvre.

Frederik began working at a local art gallery when he was eleven years old, selling his work and learning the art of frame finishing and oil painting restoration. Other than high school art, he has had no formal art training.

He continued working at the gallery for eleven years and at age 22 became a professional artist. In 1983, he moved to Indiana to fulfill a life long ambition to restore a Victorian mansion in Muncie as well as continue his artistic career.

His work has won the Best Traditional Painting Popular Award in 1984 and 1986 and the Best of Show Popular Award in 1985 and 1987 in Hoosier Salon competition. He has received similar awards at the Pasadena Festival of Arts, the Simi Valley Art Association and the Santa Paula Festival of the Arts during the past ten years.

Few contemporary artists have captivated the public as has Mr. Grue. His works are in public and private collections throughout the United States, England and Japan.

His style is that of the Old Masters, using oils on masonite with sable brushes and working from dark to light. The meticulous detail in his paintings takes a greeat deal of time. His still life work in the tradition of 17th century Dutch artists gives one the feeling of being able to reach into the canvas. His landscapes are so detailed and technically perfect they give one the feeling of being able to walk into the scene.

Mr. Grue is greatly interested in Victorian houses and furniture and is currently in the process of completely restoring his 14-room Queen Anne style house as his home and studio.

The Hoosier Salon opened to the public on April 25 and Mr. Grue is showing his work there again this year. All Meridian Street residents who attend it or other local major art shows are encouraged to look for their artist neighbor's work. He will be delighted to meet you.

THE MERIDIAN STREET PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The Meridian Street Preservation Commission (MSPC) was formed in 1971 by the Indiana Legislature for the purpose of preserving and maintaining the Historic Meridian Street area. The boundaries extend from 40th Street on the south to Westfield Boulevard on the north and include any properties within 100 feet east and west of the Meridian Street right-of-way.

The preservation area is divided into two categories: 1) Meridian Street properties, which are parcels of land any portion of which lies within 100 feet east or west of the Meridian Street right-of-way; and, 2) Bordering Properties, which are parcels of land lying within 1000 feet east or west of the Meridian Street right-of-way.

Generally speaking, the east and west boundaries of the Bordering Properties area extend to approximately the west side of Washington Boulevard and the east side of Capitol Avenue, respectively. Bordering Properties also include parcels of land lying within a radius of 750 feet south and north, respectively, of 40th Street and Westfield Boulevard, where they intersect with Meridian Street.

The Meridian Street Preservation Commission protects this historic area by reviewing and approving: 1) any proposed zoning change anywhere within the Meridian Street and Bordering Properties area; and, 2) any structure or feature on any Meridian Street property. Normal repair and maintenance work is excluded from this otherwise mandatory review, as is any interior work, unless it involves a change in the use of the property.

All property owners who seek to make any such changes must initiate an action before the Meridian Street Preservation Commission. Approval by the Commission is necessary to obtain any zoning change or variance. A Certificate of Appropriateness is necessary before any construction or demolition work may begin.

All property owners who contemplate changes as generally described above should contact the State Building Commissioner in the office of the Indiana Administrative Building Council, and/or refer to Indiana Code 18-4-24 and Indiana Administrative Code 925 IAC 1-1 for specific details and legal requirements.

ABOUT YARD SIGNS, CARS AND TRASH CONTAINERS

Numerous complaints have been received from concerned Meridian Street area residents about the unsightly and degrading appearance of properties along the street which have contractor advertising signs and cars for sale displayed on them and trash containers at curbside two to three days before pick up day.

Such signs, cars and early placed trash containers (particularly on Sundays) present a tacky, "trashy" and slovenly appearance which is totally incompatible with the quality and prestige of the Meridian Street Foundation area.

Signs of contractors for painting, remodeling, landscaping, repairing, etc., might be considered a violation of the Meridian Street Preservation Statute which prohibits a new structure without a Certificate of Appropriateness.

The proper place to advertise an automobile for sale is in a newspaper or on a used car lot. The MSF area is neither one.

Trash containers should be placed at curbside the night before their pickup day. Putting them out several days in advance, particular on Sunday, does nothing but detract from the natural beauty and high quality appearance of your neighborhood.

Every MSF resident is urged to do their share in maintaining the prestigious appearance of the neighborhood in which they live.

(Continued on next column.)

MSF GAINS 23 NEW MEMBERS

Meridian Street Foundation warmly welcomes the 23 new members who have committed their support and participation in the organization's activities by joining during the last 60 days.

There are now a total of 157 households which belong to MSF. There is a potential of close to 500 households within MSF's boundaries which are eligible for membership in the organization.

Residents in MSF's area (40th Street to Westfield Blvd., both sides of Meridian, the west side of Pennsylvania, the east side of Illinois and all intersecting streets) are encouraged to complete and return the membership application printed below thereby joining in support of MSF's important activities, purpose and objectives.

MSF functions in the best interest of all residents within its boundaries. Without their combined support, it can only function on a limited basis.

The more members, the stronger the activities and benefits for all. Join now with your friends and neighbors in maintaining a strong and active organization from which every property owner and resident benefits.

New members of MSF are:

Allen, Susan	35 E. 56th St.
Bailey, Katherine	4000 N Mer
Baize, James	5555 N Mer
Blankenbaker, Richard	5019 N Mer
Campbell, Mary Jo	5455 N Mer
DeCoursey, Paul	47 E 56 St
Ellis, John	30 E 56 St
Fouke, Jean	5402 N Penn
Frey, Paul	4624 N Penn
Gilman, David	5250 N Mer
Handley*, Virginia	17 W Hmp Dr
Lacava, Elizabeth	4115 N Ill
McClure, Robert B	41 E 49 St
McClure, Rob N	4020 N Penn
Peacock, Jay	4634 N Penn
Polottre, Sam	20 E 56 St
Schectman, Bety	4000 N Mer
Seidensticker, James	5223 N Penn
Short, John	35 E 55 St
Smith, Brian	4901 N Ill
Sparks, James	5640 N Penn
Stanley, Kenneth	4245 N Mer
Thomas, Lowell	28 W Hmp Dr
Young, Mildred	5331 N Ill

*Not previously listed.

MERIDIAN STREET FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Please Print or Type All Information Requested)

Applicant's Name:_____
(first) (init) (last)

Address:_____
(Street No. Name, Zip)

Telephone - Home:_____ Office:_____

Occupations and employer names of residents:_____

_____

_____

Family Member Names: Spouse_____

Children at home and ages:_____

_____

I am willing to participate in the following areas:

____ Beautification ____ Membership/Mailings

____ Preservation ____ Newsletter

____ Neighborhood Associations Liaison ____ Social

____ Crime Watch/Public Concerns

I suggest the Foundation consider the following subjects:

_____

_____

(Enclose $10 check payable to Meridian Street Foundation and send to Timothy Wright, 4950 N. Meridian St., Indpls., IN 46208)

HISTORY OF THE MARY E. NICHOLSON SCHOOL – P. S. NO. 70

Excerpted from Seventy Times February, 1925

The history of School 70 began before the Civil War, in the eighteen thirties.

The first school was called the Neighborhood School. It stood at the corner of 46th and Illinois Streets. The schoolhouse was constructed of logs with straw plaster placed between them to keep out the cold.

The desks were made of roughly sawed logs and the seats were made of the first cuttings of logs with four pegs for legs. The pupils at the time thought their school very modern.

The school district was very large in order to have enough pupils to have sufficient attendance. It is indicated that pupils came from as far away as Fall Creek, what is now the Broad Ripple area, Keystone Avenue and the White River region.

The term lasted only three months so the farm boys could help their fathers during planting and harvesting seasons. Younger children were taught the three R's, while older pupils learned higher arithmetic in their course of study.

The Neighborhood School wa abandoned a short time before 1860. In 1855 the first schoolhouse, District School Number Six, was built on the present grounds at 46th and Central Avenue. At that time Central Avenue was known as Sugar Flat Pike. The school was a one-room frame structure sufficient to house 40 pupils but which sometimes was attended by less than 10.

The school term was about five months. The main subjects were still the three R's. The first teacher was a Mr. Fawcett, who it is said, kept a sturdy hickory stick close at hand as a teaching aid.

The gathering place for the students was the school pump where the children stood patiently in the line waiting for drink of water from the same rusty tin cup.

A grove of maple trees was across the road from the school. Pupils would climb the stile over the fence around the school yard to get maple sap from the buckets hanging from the trees.

In 1883, there was considerable discussion about continuing the school district, since a new school had been opened in Mapleton, causing the enrollment at Number Six to dwindle to six or eight pupils. Nevertheless, the patrons of Number Six were loyal, it is reported, and the school progressed, increasing in enrollment as the population grew.

The school structure was used until 1892, when it became too small for its attendance. The building was sold to a Mr. Johnson for fifty dollars. It was moved to 46th Street and College Avenue where it was used as a garage. The second Number Six school was built in 1892. It was constructed with a center hall, so if it became necessary to sell the building it could be used as a residence. It was sold in 1906 at auction, "bell and all" for $700 to the Meridian Heights Presbyterian Church.

For many years the building was located at the northwest corner of 47th Street and Park Avenue. It was a frame building consisting of four rooms, two on the main floor and two on the upper floor with a cloak room on each floor. An addition was added to the back of the building several years later.

The maple grove across the lane from the school (now 46th Stret) was the children's playground. Children were permitted to use it if they would replace the rails on the fence when they were knocked down and put the buckets back on the trees after drinking the sugar water.

The well pump was the important feature of this school and was a landmark for people of this vicinity for many years. It was not removed until after drinking fountains were installed in the brick school building in 1917.

The school term lasted from three to seven months depending upon the financial condition of the township. If the teacher would take board and lodging with neighboring families as part of his salary the term was longer than it otherwise would be.

The school building was the only community house in this district. Before the Meridian Heights Presbyterian Church was built, services were held in the two lower rooms of the school. The building was also used for many other special occasions, such as spelling bees, plays and church socials.

After the second frame structure had been sold at auction and moved, the south half of a red brick building was constructed in 1906. It had two rooms on each of the lower and upper floors with a long hallway on each.

In 1910, the north half of the building was added providing four more recitation rooms and a lunch room. Because the building had been erected at two separate times there were two heating systems, two ventilating systems and two kinds of cloak rooms.

In 1916, Township School Number Six entered the Indianapolis city system and became School 70.

The real estate upon which School 70 stands was purchased in five parcels. The first portion of about half an acre, was purchased in 1855 from a Matthias Dawson. The second purchase of another half acre was made in 1892 from a Silas Johnson at the time the second frame structure was erected. Two other purchases were made about the same time from a Mr. Scott and Mr. Burns.

Some years later Alexander Taggart bought the southeast corner of the present grounds and held it until the Board of School Commissioners felt the city could afford to purchase it. It was sold to the school board for $6,000, the same price that Mr. Taggart paid for it.

The fifth addition to the school grounds was purchased late in 1923 from a Mr. McNeely for $19,000.

It took a total of 68 years for P.S. 70 to acquire the ground upon which it is located.

On Sunday, October 19, 1986, hundreds of P.S. 70 alumni returned from throughout the United States to attend special ceremonies celebrating the school's 150th birthday.

MSF REAL ESTATE ROUNDUP:

ILLINOIS STREET

by G.B. Landrigan, Realtor

While the bards of the world emote great words of praise to Providence for the great gift of spring, the Meridian Street Foundation neighbors have decided to follow the lead of Candide and have taken to "tending their own gardens".

Indeed, in spite of the damage incurred by the recent ice storm, a plethora of daffodils, magnolias, irises and tulips have burst into bloom. An obvious corollary can and has been drawn by fiscally-minded realtors when speaking of property values in the MSF area. Just as the tulips have blossomed once again, so has the desire for homes in our neighborhood.

Previous columns have noted the surge of interest in residences on North Meridian and North Illinois streets. North Pennsylvania Street is our featured street in this column. Our next one will focus on the quaint side streets of our neighborhood.

Long a showcase of fine English Tudors, colonials, and craftsman-style homes, North Pennsylvania Street is the quintessential Meridian-Kessler avenue with its well-aged trees, corner drugstore, shops, groceries, service stations and well-tended lawns and gardens.

The Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of Realtors computer records show that North Pennsylvania's surge in interest is far from waning.

Indeed, while the average price for a home on Pennsylvania in 1986 was $113,606, that average jumped in 1987 to $121,240.

Most impressive, however, was the fact that the average time on the market was only 49 days, with many homes selling within the first four days of being placed on the market. In comparison, the average time on the market for a home in Washington Township in general is 85 days.

The 1988 season seems to hold equally optimistic news for us. With interest rates at such reasonable levels and a pleasant purchaser demand for homes in the MSF area, realtors are optimistic that this will be yet another banner year for our neighborhood.

Of the homes already pended or sold in 1988, the average price has increased to $177,950 on North Pennsylvania. While this may be a misleading figure due to the style, size and upkeep of the homes, it does bear out our predictions.

We look forward to talking with you about homes on the side streets of our neighborhood in the next issue of *MSF News & Views*.

MY TOWN INDY

April 21, 1988
(Printed with permission of Fred Heckman, News Editor
Radio Station WIBC, 1070 AM

"Let's take a look at My Town Indy: Where I've come to the conclusion that the Indiana Primary should take place at some other time of the year. Probably one of the most beautiful stretches of homes in all of the United States is Meridian Street from about 40th to Kessler Blvd., particularly at this time of year. Many flowers are blooming; the flowering crab apples, the redbuds are in full color, the green leaves of trees are poking through, lawns are looking good. But there on those lawns are those God-awful political signs! To see the beauty of the homes and of nature, then to put those garrish campaign signs out is nothing but sinful and commericial-grade ugly! I said it and I'm glad!"

(Editor's note: We heartily agree with Fred's thoughts and thank him for expressing them so succinctly on a recent radio braodcast. We wonder how many Meridian Street residents were first asked for their permission to have these signs posted on their property and then gave it. And, we also wonder what kind of an impression they make on out-of-town visitors who drive on Meridian Street – not very good, we think.)

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