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MSF News & Views

LAURA HARE REMEMBERS...

By Carol Weiss

Although most of us think of 4270 N. Meridian as the Booth Tarkington house, retired physician Laura Hare does not. She thinks of it as the Hare house and with good reason.

It was Dr. Hare's widowed mother who worked with architect Frank Hunter for nearly two years while the house was being built.

It was Dr. Hare's mother who in 1912 moved her six children and her own mother into the house.

It was Dr. Hare's mother who raised her three daughters and three sons there until 1923 when Laura, the youngest child, went off to college and Mrs. Hare then sold it to the famous author.

"I loved that house with a passion: it was fun growing up there," Dr. Hare recalls. "That was my childhood and I have fond memories of it."

Dr. Hare's remembrances are refreshing reminders of an era long past. "My most vivid recollection is of the Christmas celebration in the great big recreation room on the third floor. My grandmother was as German as she could be and so we celebrated Christmas with our relatives in the German way, the night before. We had a tremendous tree that almost touched the ceiling and it was just covered with candles. Why we never had a fire, I'll never know."

As imposing and as elegant as 4270 appears, it was used in its entirety by the Hares. "The house was built for a big family," Dr. Hare explains, "and there was nothing pretentious about it. Every inch was lived in. With six kids in the house, it was very informal.

A maid and yardman lived in the backyard in what is now called the carriage house. "Then it was half servants' quarters and half barn. I remember distinctly the sunken gas tank back there which filled our gasoline cars and I remember the horses and ponies."

As a little girl, Dr. Hare, went to school at 40th and Capitol streets. A neighbor down at 40th street had a large yard with a big stone wall that ran from Meridian to Illinois. "I'd climb that wall and walk on it clear over to Illinois, and then I just had another block to get to school. On rainy days, they'd hitch up a horse and carriage and drive my sister and me there."

"Talking about your childhood is very nostalgic," Dr. Hare admits as another memory appears. "There was a little room in the back of the house where we used to gather to clean up fruit. We'd get a couple of bushels of peaches or apples then peel the fruit and can it. Things like that stand out in my mind. It was a pleasure, a sharing of family duties."

The Hares lived on Meridian at a time, "before television was ever dreamed of. Evenings were spent with friends," Dr. Hare continues, "and we read a lot. When we were little, my grandmother would take me and my sister to an upstairs bedroom after dinner and we'd listen to her read Louisa May Alcott stories until bed time.

Frequently, my oldest sister would bring friends home from the University of Chicago and they would stay with us on vacations rather than go back east to their homes."

Dr. Hare described a childhood with pony rides on unpaved streets, ice boxes filled with Polar Ice by the ice man and ice cream freezers requiring salt, ice and a lot of cranking.

After attending the University of Chicago, Dr. Hare returned as a young woman to Indianapolis and the new home her mother built around the corner on 43rd Street where she still resides.

"I can close my eyes and visualize Booth Tarkington out walking with his big black poodle and a cane. He'd walk down Meridian and cross 43rd. Sometimes he'd stop at our front door and if my mother were here, she would invite him in."

Dr. Hare retired from the practice of internal medicine in 1970, however, she continues to play the piano and take lessons; handpaint china buds, animals and mugs; care for her rambling roses and daily walk Dante, her pet terrior, through the grounds of the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

(Editor's Note: We wonder if there is a current resident of the Meridian Street Foundation area who has lived in the MSF neighborhood any longer and more consistently than Dr. Hare. If so, we would sure like to hear from or about them.)

THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS

John C. Klein, MD

These issues of our *MSF News & Views* are being sent to all "Residents" in the Meridian Street Foundation area so those who are not members may become acquainted with its purposes and be encouraged to join with those who are to help achieve its objectives.

A listing of names and addressses of all current members of MSF is printed elsewhere in this issue. Members are requested to review it and then personally contact any of their neighbors or friends who are not listed and encourage them to join with us.

It is easy to become complacent but we must remember that our neighborhood is now very attractive and desirable because of a few dedicated people who, in the past, worked long and hard to make it this way.

It is the responsibility of those of us who live in the Meridian Street Corridor to actively support and maintain the achievements of those who have preceeded us. This we can do by applying our best efforts in encouraging our friends and neighbors to become a part of our organization and to participate in its affairs and activities.

As some of you are aware, MSF received very favorable recognition and publicity last November through the efforts of Diane Willis of TV Channel 13. In addition to giving us the opportunity to tell her about our organization's activities and purposes for her TV series on Meridian Street, her program included camera views of our board of directors meeting that month.

We are currently in the process of organizing the activities of our Crime Watch and Public Concerns Committee. Should you be interested in this type of activity please contact Michael Reed, that committee's chair, as soon as possible. His name is listed in the masthead on page 2.

Our board of directors was greatly pleased and most appreciative to receive a very generous ($500) unsolicited contribution from John J. Schaler, III, for the "Historic District" signs which we are planning to place at our Foundation's north and south boundaries. Thank you John, for so generously helping us to get this project underway.

Our social committee is planning another function to be held in the near future. Unlike our picnic last fall, it will be a member's only event. I look forward to seeing you all there.

My sincere "thank you" to all of you for your continued support of our Meridian Street Foundation and my best wishes for your good health and prosperity in the coming year.

MSF's NEIGHBORHOOD FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TEAM OF IFD STATION NO. 16

A siren's wail, the wonk-wonking of an airhorn, flashing red lights, a roaring engine, in day or night, summer or winter, fair weather or foul, announce to all that the men and women of IFD Station No. 16 are on an emergency run to protect property or assist people within or nearby our MSF neighborhood.

As you hear or see them drive by, do you wonder who they are, where they're from, why they do what they do, how they learned to do it?

This article will answer those questions, introduce these fine people to you, give them proper recognition and express our sincere appreciation for the life and property saving service which they are ready, willing and able at all times to provide to MSF residents.

IFS Station No. 16 is located at 5555 N. Illinois St. It was built in 1932 when Reginald H. Sullivan was mayor of Indianapolis and Harry Voshell was chief of the city's fire department.

The station's equipment includes a 1969 pumper engine with the capacity to pump 1,000 gallons of water per minute. The unit has an onboard 500 gallon water tank. A light wagon is also located at the station. It contains a generator and lighting equipment for night time operations as well as extra personnel air tanks.

The district to which Station 16 is assigned extends as far south as 35th and Meridian, north to the city limits, east to the railroad tracks just west of Allisonville Road and west through the Butler University area to the Indianapolis Art Museum.

The station's crews are proud of their ability to have their fire truck started and rolling within 10-15 seconds after receiving an alarm and to reach any location within their district in two minutes. They proudly note that the Indianapolis Fire Department has the best response time of any fire department in the country.

(Continued on page 2.)

MERIDIAN STREET FOUNDATION

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Membership/Mailing Committee
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5126 Plantation Dr. 849-4023

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FIREFIGHTERS

Last year, Station 16 crews made over 700 runs of which half were for fire and half for emergency medical service such as injuries, illness, heart and respiratory problems. They expect to make over 1,000 runs this year as a result of receiving advanced EMS training.

Four members of the Station's teams have given their lives in the line of duty. Each are memorialized by having their name and year of death inscribed on a plaque mounted in the station's day room.

Each IFD Fire Fighter applicant is required to complete a Recruit Training Program consisting of about 430 hours of fire fighting subjects and 150 hours of EMS subjects. Continuing, mandatory "on-station" training consists of a minimum of 12 hours per month of fire fighting tactics, physical fitness, hazardous materials, etc. A minimum of 24 hours per year of continuing EMS training is required. Much of this information is provided through video tapes.

Beginning this year, personnel assigned to Fire Rescue units such as those in Station 16 and similar neighborhood stations will receive Advanced EMS training consisting of 40-50 hours each of classroom instruction and in-hospital "hands on" heart/respiratory life support care.

Captain Brendan M. Adams has been the officer in charge of Station 16 for the past three years. He began his fire fighting career with IFD in 1967. He is a native of Indianapolis, attended St. Joan of Arc Parochial School and graduated from Cathedral High School.

He notes that the greatest number of automobile accidents in this district occur at 49th and Meridian Streets with those at 52nd and Meridian runing a close second. He considers the fire which destroyed the Ford Fence Company in 1985 as the worst one to ever occur in this district.

Captain Adams is single and devotes off-duty hours (48 of every 72) to sports activities among which handball, golf and fishing are his favorites.

Engineer Charles Grubb drives the fire truck, operates the pumps when on a fire run, and is the volunteer permanent cook and baker on shift A. He has been an IFD fire fighter since November, 1970, having been persuaded to join the department because of its favorable working schedule and retirement program. He has been assigned to Station 16 for one year and served seven years with Rescue Squad 7 in the downtown district.

Grubb was raised in the 21st and Emerson Ave. neighborhod, attended Tech High School and served four years as a radarman in the Navy. After his discharge from the Navy he was employed as a power plant electrician by IPALCO.

He is married, has two teenage daughters and two step-daughters. He has two brothers who are members of the IFD as was his father. During the winter months he operates a heating oil delivery business in his off duty hours. During the summer months he camps, fishes and plays golf.

The most "off beat" runs he has been on involved hand injuries sustained by two men who had held a lawn mower by its wheels in order to trim a hedge. It slipped! Another run involved cutting an apartment bedroom doorway large enough to remove a 650-pound sick person.

Private John Neal began his career with IFD in November, 1975, and has been assigned to Station 16 since 1981. He served at Station 31 (46th and Carvel) for four and a half years.

Neal is an Indianapolis native and attended Arlington High School. He and his wife live on White River in the northern part of the city where he fishes in front of his home. His biggest catch - a three-foot long, 20 pound carp.

His most "off-beat" experience - an automobile accident at 46th and Delaware in which one side of the rear end of the car (wheel, axle, transmission) was thrown up into a tree from which it dripped oil on one of the injured victims.

Private Michael W. Brown joined the IFD in January, 1977, and has been at station 16 for five years. He has also served at Stations 31 and 32 (Broad Ripple). His specific fire fighting duty on the A shift team is to hook up the hose to the hydrant and turn on the water.

Brown was raised in Chicago and brought to Indianapolis by his mother when he was 12 years old because she thought it was such a nice city. He graduated from Cathedral High School in 1966 and then served four years in the Navy as a boatswain mate. Following military service, Brown drove a truck to and from Chicago everyday for Stark and Wetzel Company.

Brown thinks Indianapolis is a model city. He lives with his wife in the Butler University area. He and Pvt. Neal have served under five Captains at Station 16 — quite a record. They consider the station the nicest one in the city's system.

Brown's most memorable experience as a fire fighter is having been involved in four different two alarm fires in his first year with the department.

During this visit with Brown, a personal injury call came in for Station 16. True to form, the engine was started, the team aboard and rolling within 12 seconds.

Private Ruth Morrison was serving as a substitute on the day of this visit at Station 16. She is the 12th woman fire fighter in the IFD and completed her recruit training in November, 1986.

A native of Munster, Indiana, Morrison came to Indianapolis to attend IUPUI to study electrical engineering. As soon as she receives a permanent assignment in the department she intends to return to her studies.

Morrison is single and enjoys snow and water skiing in her off duty hours. She also repairs large and small electrical appliances when not on duty.

These are the members of Shift A, Station 16, Indianapolis Fire Department. Members of Shifts B and C will be introduced in future issues of News and Views.

ABOUT YARD SIGNS...

Advertising signs in yards are tacky, unsightly and incompatible with the quality and prestige of the Meridian Street Foundation area.

There have been a number of complaints from concerned residents about the signs which promote contractors for painting, landscaping, remodeling, driveway blacktopping, etc. Such signs could be considered a violation of the Meridian Street Preservation Statute which prohibits a new structure without a Certificate of Appropriateness.

All MSF area residents are requested to not permit any signs in front of their homes except "House for Sale" signs. And, they are also requested to not allow automobiles for sale to be displayed on their properties.

MSF SOCIAL COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

by
Roberta Lamberson, Co-Chair

Plans for our Foundation's next social function are currently being finalized. This function, which will be for members only, is tentatively scheduled to be held next month. All members will be provided complete information in the near future.

A telephone committee and block representatives are also being organized. Both will serve vital functions in keeping our Foundation members informed on a more efficient and effective basis. Anyone who is interested in serving on either of these committees, is requested to contact Roberta Lamberson (283-6209) or Virginia Handley (283-2576).

Meantime, should new neighbors move into your neighborhood, please try to visit and welcome them, invite them to become members of MSF, AND promptly notify Virginia or Roberta. A warm welcome can mean so much to new residents!

DIRECTORY OF MSF MEMBERS

Following is an alphabetical listing of all members of the Meridian Street Foundation as of January 12, 1988.

Prior to November 1, 1987, 99 households maintained membership in the Foundation. During the following two months an additional 38 households (noted by an *) joined as a result of a concerted membership campaign conducted by the organization's directors. A warm welcome is extended to these new members.

Current members are requested to review this listing to determine if friends and neighbors are included. If not, they should be contacted and encouraged to complete and submit the membership application printed on this page.

However, it is not necessary for non-members to wait for such contact and encouragement. Their membership is solicited herewith with the request that they promptly complete and forward their application as indicated at the bottom of the form.

Anthony*	John J	4305 N Mer
Aufderheide	Ellen	4450 N Mer
Bantom*	Bonita	4162 N Mer
Beck	Rachael F	4325 N Mer
Behrman*	David B	4127 N Mer
Behroozi	Cyrus	4290 N Mer
Bixler	Patricia	4501 N Mer
Boyd	John W	5401 N Mer
Bruins	Scott C	4747 N Mer
Cales*	Donald R	4311 N Mer
Caresky	Nancy	5105 N Mer
Cassady	Mrs Edwin	4821 N Mer
Chandler	Marie	4285 N Mer
Churchill	Mrs Lee	6162 N Mer W Dr
Cohen	Barbara A	4915 N Ill
Conley	James D	4000 N Mer
Craft	Robert L	5556 N Mer
Dawson	Susie	38 E 55th
Dick	Richard	48 Mer Pl
Dollens	Wilbur C	4226 N Mer
Dorfman	Larry	5678 N Mer
Duncan *	Annette	4000 N Mer
Dye*	Richard H	4375 N Mer
Farber	Mark O	4410 N Penn
Feeney Jr	Francis J	4814 N Mer
Fenstermaker	John R	5241 N Mer
Fletcher*	Maryann M	4420 N Mer
Forsee	Gerald B	34 E 45th
Foxx	Steven	5259 N Cap
France*	Richard G	4061 N Ill
Garrett	Irving	5707 N Ill
Garvey	Michael D	4480 N Mer
Genetos*	Philip C	5272 N Mer
Gerner*	Henry L	4436 N Penn
Goldberg*	Irene	3710 N Mer
Grady	Michael	4465 N Mer
Guernsey	Richard H	4225 N Ill
Hahn	Jack A L	4000 N Mer
Hardee	August M	5545 N Mer
Hare	Laura	87 W 43rd
Harger*	Barbara B	46 W 52nd
Hatfield	F	4403 N Mer
Hickman*	Vaughn	4401 N Ill
Hicks	Robert	30 W 58th
Holt	David	4315 N Ill
Jenkins	Dorothy W	5402 N Mer
Johnstone II	Robert C	5141 N Mer
Karr	Bruce R	5126 Plantation Dr
Kennedy Jr	William	5425 N Mer
King	Mrs. Jane	5309 N Ill
Kleiman*	Larry	50 W Hmptn Dr
Klein	John C	4343 N Mer
Lacy	Andre B	5686 N Penn
Lamberson	Roberta M	32 E 46th
Lamkin	E. Henry	4145 Wash Blvd
Lampert*	Robert F	24 E 40th
Landrigan	G B	34 W 49th
LeRoy	Leonard A	4802 N Mer
Lerums	James E	5125 N Mer
Lingeman	John	42 W 43rd
Madden*	Ethel L	5111 N Ill
Mail	Rod	51 E WestFld
Maley	George H	4531 N Mer
Mance	Mercer M	4401 N Mer
Markuson	Stanley	4621 N Mer
Martin	Doris N	36 W 49th
Masters	John	34 E 46th
McLane	William J	4400 N Mer
Metzger*	Marie E	4651 N Ill
Molenda	Cynthia L	4515 N Mer
Moore*	Jane S	25 W Hmptn Dr
Mulholland*	James	4403 N Mer
Needler	Timothy S	5440 N Mer
Nelson	Elliot	5630 N Mer
Nobles*	Anna	4136 N Mer
Nolan	Alan T	4118 N Penn
Norton	James A	4138 N Penn
Norwalk*	Keith O	25 W 49th
Nuefer*	David E	4108 N Penn
O'Guinn*	M David	5230 N Mer
Ober	Mary E	5104 N Mer
Orr	Donald W	4815 N Ill
Orr	Josie	4750 N Mer
Paine Jr*	Andrew J	4204 N Penn
Patterson	Samuel S	4536 N Mer
Peahl	Charles A	4411 N Ill
Percival	Charles R	4014 N Penn
Planje	Ted	4456 N Mer
Poeni*	John	4360 N Penn
Pratt	Margaret C	5050 N Mer
Reed	Patrick M	4534 N Penn
Reinhart*	Marjorie A	37 W 52nd
Rice*	L T	4532 N Penn
Robinson	Susan E	20 W Hmptn Dr
Ross	Alice	4611 N Mer
Ross	Roberta	4611 N Mer
Rumba*	Jane A	33 W 49th
Russell	Frank E	4000 N Mer
Rynard	Robert	5220 N Mer
Sabens	James A	5354 N Mer
Sachs	Betty	5445 N Mer
Sauer	Carl M	5540 N Mer
Schaler	Mrs John J	4906 N Mer
Schaler III	John J	3060 N Mer
Schlechte	John V	22 W 52nd
Scott	Gene A	4030 N Penn
Shepard*	Randall T	4057 N Penn
Sheridan	John K	5243 N Mer
Shula	Robert J	4137 N Mer
Sigmond*	Mrs Alice	5548 N Mer
Siurua	Sam	5217 N Ill
Smart	George	5515 N Ill
Smith*	Margaret W	4414 N Mer
Southern	Thomas	5060 N Mer
Sparrow*	Genevera	4830 N Mer
Stack	Chris	4131 N Mer
Steichen	Paul R	4544 N Mer
Stevens*	Roger H	4816 N Penn
Stilwell*	Craig G	29 E 56th
Stuart	Marion H	4330 N Mer
Test	Charles	4430 N Mer
Townsend Jr	Earl C	5008 N Mer
Tussing*	Jean B	4000 N Mer
Velonis*	Barbara H	4025 N Mer
Walsh	John R	4475 N Mer
West	Stephen R	4120 N Ill
Wilkins	Gene E	5001 N Mer
Willingham	Lu	24 E 45th
Wilson	J B	5360 N Mer
Workman*	Rosemary	4809 N Ill
Wright	Timothy T	4950 N Mer
Wulf	Charles A	400 N Mer
Young*	Mildred	5331 N Ill
Ziegler	David	34 Mer Pl

"SPECIAL FRIENDS" OF MSF

Monetary contributions ranging from $50 to $100 for the financial support of this newsletter made by the following "Special Friends" of MSF, are gratefully acknowledged:

Ellen Aufderheide*, Rachael F. Beck, Robert L. Craft, Virginia Handley, John & Elaine Klein, George H. Maley, Stan & Barbara Markuson, James A. Sabens, M/M John Schaler, Gene & Beverley Scott, Charles E. Test, Timothy & Catherine Wright, Mildred Young*.

*New contributors since list last published.

All MSF members are encouraged to join with these "Special Friends" in support of their neighborhood association's newsletter. Make checks payable to MFS Newsletter and send to John C. Klein, MD, 4343 N. Meridian St., 46208.

GOVERNOR'S CUP CROQUET TOURNAMENT

The inaugural "Governor's Cup Croquet Tournament" will be played on the lawn of the Indiana Governor's Residence from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., on June 12, according to a recent announcement by Josie Orr.

Tim Wright, MSF's Treasurer, and his wife Cathy are co-chairmen of what Mrs. Orr describes as the state's "most exciting new sporting/social event".

In an article in *The Indianapolis Star*, Mrs. Orr indicated "that no previous croquet playing experience is necessary; only a spirit of good fun is required." Those who will attend are encouraged to dress in summer whites, the historic garb for such an event.

Activities during the tournament will include a variety of entertainers and refreshments. The event will benefit the mansions' restoration and furniture acquisition funds.

MSF residents are encouraged to attend what purports to be one of the most unique events ever conducted on a Meridian Street residential property. It is certainly in keeping with the Foundation's efforts to retain historical values in the neighborhood. Reserve the date for this event now.

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)

WE'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY –

By James A. Sabens, Chair, Beautification Committee

A lot of activity is underway in our part of the Meridian neighborhood because the home of our next door neighbor will be the site of the 27th Annual St. Margaret's Guild Decorator Show House this spring. It is the very attractive resident of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. T. Rees, 5330 N. Meridian Street.

We welcome the area-wide publicity, interest and attention which the Show House will bring to our neighborhood regardless of the traffic problems and minor inconveniences those of us in this area will experience.

The Show House program is a most attractive and worthwhile fund raising event for the benefit of Wishard Memorial Hospital in which many, many volunteers, home owners, designers, and craftsmen alike contribute many hours of support to a very prestigious undertaking.

It seems only yesterday that during the same month in 1968, both of our families became next door neighbors on Meridian Street. Even though the Rees family intends to move back into their home at the completion of the Show House program, there is considerable apprehension and expectation as they and their neighbors await the changes that will be made inside and outside of their property.

Some may remember the earlier Show Houses. In many cases they were aging derelicts that were vacant, unsold, unwanted and sometimes in rather desperate stages of disrepair and neglect.

The first Show House we visited some 18-19 years ago, was a long vacant and neglected property in which large swags of material were used in an attempt to conceal a major structural flaw. A pot of artificial geraniums filled a non-functioning toilet bowl. Some wall paper was held up with scotch tape and thumb tacks.

It seemed that anything the designer's did was an improvement over the house's previous condition. It was not a pleasant experience, since we had just moved into the area and wondered if many other houses were in a similar state of disrepair.

But, "We've Come A Long Way, Baby," since that era. Increased quality and the longer lasting positive effect of improvements made in later Show Houses, mirrors the increasing number of top notch designers and craftsmen who have since become available in our area. Likewise, increased interest of homeowners in more suitable and positive updating of improvements in them has created a tremendous resurgence of interest, vitality and desire to improve properties throughout our neighborhood.

Now, Show Houses are magnificent, sought after, well loved and cared for homes, whose owners work much closer with designers to achieve an elegant and appropriate enhancement of their property as well as more efficient, economical operation of environmental systems. These and many more "perks" are now associated with being chosen as the site for the Decorator Show House.

Yes, "We've Come A Long Way, Baby!".

BEAUTYreMARKS: Thanks to all of our Meridian Street neighbors for truly spectacular holiday season outdoor decorations this year. We can't remember any past season in which the number and beauty of outdoor decorations matched those of this year by so many of you. We especially compliment the Earl Townsend's for their always delightful Santa Claus, sleigh and reindeer.

PERSONAL PROFILE

Timothy T. Wright, MSF Treasurer

Tim is a native of Indianapolis and attended North Central High School where he was a member of the track team. He also listed "work" as another extra-curricular activity. Same for Butler University where he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

Tim is president of WTW Incorporated.

Tim's wife Catherine, is from Anderson, IN, where she attended Madison Heights H.S. She also received her college education at Butler University where she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Catherine keeps busy with her acitvities in the Junior League of Indianapolis, the Junior Symphony Group, the Women's Symphony Committee and her sorority's alumni organization.

Tim and Catherine share the joys of raising a daughter.

THE MERIDIAN STREET FOUNDATION

Organized in 1960, MSF consists of and effectively represents homeowners residing on North Meridian, the west side of Pennsylvania, the east side of Illinois and intersecting streets from 40th St. north to Westfield Blvd.

Its members deal with issues of zoning, street appearance, maintenance, repair, usage and widening. They serve as an important link between local neighborhood groups such as the Meridian-Kessler and Butler-Tarkington Associations.

Foundation members work to enhance the stability, prestige, beauty, safety, historical/architectural integrity of their neighborhood. They are dedicated to maintaining with one another a cohesive relationship and constant communications about pertinent issues and concerns affecting them all.

MSF members encourage every household within the Foundation's boundaries to join with them in support of the many activities designed for the mutual benefit of everyone.

MSF REAL ESTATE ROUNDUP:

ILLINOIS STREET

by G.B. Landrigan, Realtor

Now that the throes of another bitter Hoosier winter are upon us, it might be cheery to continue to examine the real estate activity throughout our neighborhood.

In our last article on this subject, we learned that the 1987 average selling price of a residence on North Meridian Street had jumped by almost $100,000 when compared to the previous year. Similar financial celebrations have also been observed on North Illinois Street this past year, as we shall now learn.

The east side of North Illiniois Street provides the western boundary for the Meridian Street Foundation's area. Also located within the Butler-Tarkington Neighborhood area, the houses on Illinois Street are a most interesting blend of large and small English Tudors, colonials and cottage-style residences.

The average price of a residence on North Illinois Street in 1987 came to a pleasant $112,000. This compares with a figure of $81,000 in 1986. The range of prices in 1987 was $290,000 as the highest to $50,000 as the lowest. Eleven transactions took place on Illinois Street during 1987.

As we begin 1988, there are currently three houses on this street for sale through the Board of Realtors. While the average price for the three is $126,633, two of them are listed above the 1987 average — $112,000.

Reasons for this hefty increase in the price range include the increasing popularity of MSF area homes, the academic success of Public School 86, and the pride of the area's diversity. The recent development of the 56th and Illinois commercial corner, primarily achieved by MSF neighbors, has served as an impetus for other renovations, both commercial and residential.

Although one is hard-pressed to place a dollar figure on the joys of a cup of coffee at the Emporium, it is not difficult to see a correlation with property values.

Until our next issue, when we shall venture to North Pennsylvania Street, I again urge you to become active on one of the MSF committees. To do so, contact the chairperson of the committee in which you are interested, shown in the listing of MSF officials on page 2.

By being active in your neighborhood association, you play a vitally important part in shaping the direction which it should take.

CRIME WATCH/ PUBLIC CONCERNS COMMITTEE MEETS

An organization meeting of the MSF Crime Watch/Public Concerns Committee was held at President Klein's home last month with Chairman Michael Reed presiding. Others present were Mary Masters, Jane Nolan, Susan Robinson, John C. Schaler, III and Sam Siurua.

Reed notes that the crime watch responsibilities of the committee relate to those activities designed to making the neighborhood a more safe place in which to live.

To achieve that objective, Reed reports that the committee intends to interface with appropriate law enforcement agencies, maintain and provide a crime trends information service, advise area residents of measures they can take to protect themselves and their properties against crime.

Such measures would include engraving identification symbols on valuable items, taking pictures of and maintaining a complete inventory of all possessions. Additional activities include an information exchange on resident alarm systems and organizing a "Neighborhood Crime Watch" program.

Reed noted that the public concerns activities of the committee cover a much wider range of activities. Subjects being considered are 18-wheel truck traffic, speeding, parking, display of cars "for sale" on Meridian Street, painting and remodeling contractor signs posted on Meridian Street properties, building code violations, barking and uncontrolled dogs, and an automatic "stop & go" traffic light at 43rd and Meridian Street.

MSF residents should submit their concerns to Reed for his committee's consideration. Reed's addresss is listed in the masthead on page 2.

Meridian Street Foundation
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