7/6/92

MERIDIAN STREET FOUNDATION

# News & Views

JULY 1992 VOLUME 5, NUMBER 4

## FINAL MERIDIAN IN BLOOM TOUR THIS MONTH

*By Alice Ross, Tour Chairperson*

Plans have been completed for this year's Meridian In Bloom Home and Garden Tour" and the annual gala "Bloom Gathering".

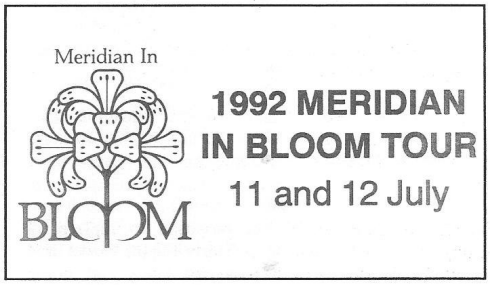
The Tour week's activities will kick off on Thursday evening, 9 July, with a progressive party to begin with a visit of the home of Governor and Mrs. Evan Bayh from 6:00 to 7:00 P.M. The next steps will be at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Maley, 4531 North Meridian Street, where guests will enjoy a special summer evening party. Invitations have been mailed to area residents. For information, please call the Historic Landmarks Foundation at 639-4534.

Proceeds of all of the Tours, to take place this year on the afternoons of Saturday and Sunday 11 and 12 July, along with contributions and a grant from the Indiana Humanities Council, are underwriting a handsome book on the homes and history of the historic North Meridian Street District. Again, six distinctive homes will be open for your visit. This year's tour, our seventh, will be the last to be sponsored by Historic Landmarks for the purpose of the book.

An added attraction this year will be a special showing of classic automobiles from the collections of private owners. These will be shown at each home. Parking will again be permitted on the east side of North Meridian as well as at the AAA Hoosier Motor Club lot at 40th and Illinois Streets. The Meridian Street United Methodist Church lot at 5500 North Meridian will also be available. Free transportation will be provided from the lots and among the tour homes. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Markuson, 4621 North Meridian Street, will play host to the refreshment stand.

Advance sale tickets will be available and tickets will be sold at each home the day of the tour. A special page of advertisements and coupons from Meridian-Kessler, Butler-Tarkington, and Broad Ripple shops and services will also be available the day of the tour. Door prizes of copies of the new book will be given after the tour.

Additional volunteers are always needed and, for our readers, it would be a great way to meet neighbors you don't now know. Each volunteer receives a tour ticket. Please call Phyllis Crawford at 255-4900 to find out how you can help.




## BAND CONCERT COMPLEMENTS TOUR WEEK

*By Alice Ross*

This year we have a wonderful added attraction to our Meridian In Bloom Home and Garden Tour. Meridian Street United Methodist Church, 5500 North Meridian, is inviting everyone to an old-fashioned free band concert on Saturday, 11 July at 7:00 P.M. The church invites you to bring a blanket or lawn chair and relax to the sounds of the Indianapolis Symphonic Band.

## IPL PROPOSES NEW LIGHTING FOR NORTH MERIDIAN

*By Karen Dorfman*

*The Meridian Street Foundation board has taken a stand against a plan proposed by the Indianapolis Power & Light Company and the Indiana Department of Transportation. The plan includes removing all existing poles and lights on North Meridian and replacing them with new.*

*The new lights would be sodium (somewhat yellow in color--as seen in certain blocks of North Central and Washington Boulevard) and would have twice the candle power as our current ones. While there would be a slight reduction of the total number of light poles, the plan involves placing all lights on the west side of Meridian. The poles would obviously be placed closer together on the west side than is currently the case. Additionally, new sign poles would need to be erected to handle the traffic signs that are currently on the lamp posts.*

*(Continued on page 2)*

## COMMENTS

*By Stan Markuson, MSF President*

The primary function of the Meridian Street Foundation is to focus on those activities that support and preserve the values of our neighborhood. The Board of Directors, all residents of the area, try to represent the best interests of their neighbors. Without the Foundation there would be no organized force to contest plans and actions of those who would ignore and do harm to the very desirable charm and structure of this area.

This is not an overstatement of the situation. Two examples of current threats to us will support our concern. The Board of Directors is working hard to resolve these problems.

The City of Indianapolis has proposed to replace all existing street lights (between Thirty-Eighth Street and Kessler Boulevard) with new garish lights and poles. Additionally, all light poles would be placed only on the west side of North Meridian Street. Karen Dorfman, representing the Foundation, is working with other neighborhood associations and the State Meridian Street Preservation Commission to change the city's plans and make the new lights more aesthetically appropriate to our area.

The other problem concerns the Foundation's effort to improve traffic safety on Meridian Street. Helga Behroozi, a member of the Board, has met with the State Highway Commission (North Meridian is a state highway) and city officials to request specific changes including traffic lights at Forty-Third and Fortieth Streets. City-County Councilman, Steve West, is assisting the Board in this effort.

The Board is also involved in activities that support the Historic Preservation program for Meridian Street. All in all, our members spend many hours working for the good and welfare of our neighborhood. We hope that we fairly represent our neighbors. If not, please call us or come to the Board meetings.

One important indication that you support the Foundation is your paid membership. Out of a potential membership of over 600, only 101 residents are currently paid members.

Please join our gang. Thank you.

*Other questions raised include the perennial fear that if lighting is only to be on one side of North Meridian, is there a long-term intent to widen the street in the future?*

*IPL and IDOT officials met with members of Butler-Tarkington, Historic Landmarks Foundation, and MSF in an open meeting in April. Two more meetings were scheduled and were eventually cancelled by the IPL and IDOT officials. The MSF objective is to prove to them that historically appropriate lighting can be installed at less than half the cost they originally quoted (an astonishing $572,000). Following is a summary of lighting options:*

*Plan A: Existing Lights--leased to IDOT for $23,000 per year (IPL estimate);*

*Plan B: Modern Cobra Lights--leased to IDOT for $17,000 per year (estimate);*

*Plan C: Historic Lights--leased to IDOT for $36,000 per year with a $572,000 installation charge (estimate);*

*Plan D: Historic Lights--leased to IDOT with installation and the amount amortized in lease--$73,000 per year;*

*Plan E (MSF preferred): Survey with lighting installers and experts to determine cost of 400 watt historic lights--Larry Dorfman of Dorfman Design Builders will do this for us.*

*In short, MSF needs your help! This decision will affect our neighborhood for the next thirty to forty years. Th next meeting is at 10:00 AM on 10 July at the Historic Landmarks Foundation headquarters on Michigan Street downtown.*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Neighbors:

After being involved in a traffic accident on April 6, 1992, at the intersection of 40th and Meridian Street, and having witnessed two other accidents (one of which proved fatal) in the past month, I feel that traffic safety on Meridian Street should become a top priority for the Foundation. Of particular concern, is the stretch from 38th Street to 46th Street. Having lived on Meridian for a little more than a year, witnessing half-a-dozen auto accidents, I have become particularly disturbed by the frequency and severity of these accidents. I hope the Foundation would encourage the city or state to do a traffic study with attention paid to speeding and the narrowness of the street. Perhaps better synchronization of the traffic lights to encourage reduced speeds rather than encourage increased speeds, as is now the case, would reduce accidents.

I hope we can work to keep "One of America's Grea Streets" from becoming one of America's deadliest.

Sincerely,
Raul R. Burciaga, M.D.

## DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR - SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

**SEPT. 20** - *Annual Picnic - Stan & Barb Markuson's lawn*

**FEBRUARY** - *Winter Celebration*

It's hard to believe it's only the first part of June and already our fall social calendars are filling up, so...we want to be sure everyone in our MSF area marks SUNDAY, SEPT. 20, in big red letters on your calendars now! Our February Winter Celebration date will be announced in our next newsletter.

Back to the picnic. Many of you have requested and/or suggested that this summer's picnic should be a "Back-To-Basics "Old-Fashioned" Pitch-In/Cook-Out." The results of a little non-scientific survey of randomly selected MSF residents indicated that definitely is the choice of most people. Based on that information, general plans are as follows at this time:

WHAT: PITCH-IN/COOK-OUT
WHERE: STAN & BARBARA MARKUSON'S LAWN (4261 N. Meridian)
WHEN: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1992
TIME: 3-6 PM
BRING: YOUR OWN MEAT, BUNS, SALAD OR DESSERT
(SUGGESTION ONLY): LAST NAMES BEGINNING WITH A-M: SALAD OR VEGETABLE; N-Z: DESSERT
LAWN CHAIRS AND/OR BLANKETS
FURN: PAPERWARE SERVICE, ICED TEA, COFFEE AND LEMONADE, GRILLS AND CHARCOAL

This annual event of one of America's greatest neighborhoods is for some of America's greatest people to get together and eat, relax and enjoy!!

You will be contacted later about the details.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

*By Gene A. Scott, Membership Chairman*

Our 1992 membership roster includes:

**Single Membership**
Frederick C. Albershardt
Mrs. Edwin L. Cassady
Mrs. E. Maxine Dean
George S. Dury
Margaret S. Hicks
Mrs. D. Jane King
Timothy S. Needler
Donald & Susan Orr
Sally Reahard
Marjorie A. Reinhart
Alice Ross
Genevera B. Sparrow
Evans Woolen

**Family Membership**
Susan R. Allen
Cyrus & Helga Behroozi
John I. Bradshaw, Jr.
Donald R. Cales
Marcus & Marie Chandler
Steven Don
Jim & Nita Floyd
Philip C. Genetos
Henry & Dorothy Gerner
Morris Goodman
Michael & Judy Grady
Mrs. August M. Hardee
Janet W. Hauter
Craig & Shawzi Hitchcock
Mr. & Mrs. David Holt
Shawna Frazer & Tibor Klopfer
Julia & Andre Lacy
Ed & Ethel Madden
George H. Maley
Kathalyn S. Mance
Morton & Rebecca Marcus
Robert B. McClure
William J. McLane
Alan T. & Jane R. Nolan
M. Dave O'Guinn
Greg & Ruth Padgett
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred O. Reynolds
Mr. & Mrs. L. T. Rice
Susan E. Robinson
Mr. & Mrs. John V. Schlechte
Fred E. Schlegel
James P. Seidensticker
John K. Sheridan
Malcolm W. Smith
Edgar A. & Marian K. Towne
Steven B. Vickery
Louis & Ruth Vignati
J. B. Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. M. S. Wolf
Charles A. Wulf

**Contributing Members**
David & Alice Berger
John W. & Laurie Boyd
Richard L. Brown
Jack & Janice Coleman
Dodd's Townhouse, Inc.
Karen & Larry Dorfman
Charlene G. Dunlop
Helen S. Ferree
Abraham Garde
Jack & Barbara Hahn
Dr. Laura Hare
Vaughn Hickman
Mr. & Mrs. Robert C Johnstone, II
Miss Marjorie Kroeger
Roberta M. Lamberson
Doris N. Martin
W. L. McNiece
Dr. & Mrs. Dennis S. Megenhardt
Paul W. Mobley
Dr. Cynthia L. Molenda
Robert W. Otto
Frank N. Owings
Ted & Dorothy Planje
Margaret C. Pratt
Rufus Reiberg
Gene A. Scott
Terry E. Grogan & M. Johnna Shamp, PhD
Amy MacDonell & Randall Shepard
William C. Thomas
Gordon M. Trout
Mildred Young

**Sustaining Member**
Scott C. Bruins
Mr. R. Burciaga
Michael & Catherine Coscia
Mr. & Mrs. John R. Fenstermaker
Stan Markuson
Elliott & Estelle Nelson
Jane & Andy Paine
Jay & Sally Peacock
Dr. & Mrs. James Sabens
Lloyd Wampler
Stephan R. West

**Patron Member**
Dorothy J. Dye
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Kennedy, Jr.
Dr. John C. Klein
James Maguire
John Pless
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen K. Smith
Dr. Chris & Ann Stack

## FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Renewal_____ New_____

Patron - $100+
Sustaining Member - $50
Contributing Member - $25
Family Member - $15
Single - $10

All contributions are appreciated. All members will be acknowledged in the News & Views. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

Name:_____

Address:_____

Telephone:_____

Children and ages:_____

Occupation:_____

Would you care to participate on a committee?

If so, what area?_____

Please return to Gene Scott, with check payable to the Meridian Street Foundation, 4030 N. Pennsylvania St., 46205.

1992

4747 N. Meridian Street home of Scott and Marilyn Bruins

4155 N. Meridian Street home of Frederick and Robin Thatcher

4001 N. Meridian Street home of Johanna Shamp and Terry Grogan

4366 N. Meridian Street home of Raul Burciaga and Darryl Pebbles

5320 N. Meridian Street home of John and Lois Pless

5520 N. Meridian Street home of W. F. and Carol Metzger

**Meridian Street Foundation**
**News & Views**
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