



MERIDIAN STREET FOUNDATION

N E W S L E T T E R

SUMMER 2004

WE HONOR YOU

ALICE BERGER



I came home today to find the side street lined with cars and people from Meridian Kessler, Butler Tarkington and Meridian Street Foundation areas standing in the hot sun along Meridian Street.

They were there waiting patiently for the funeral procession of a

young police officer. Some of the people were men in suit and tie, some were women obviously dressed for the office and some were mothers with young children. All were showing their respect to IPD patrolman Timothy Jacob Laird shot in the line of duty.

I hope the officers driving by saw these people and understood their tribute. This is my community saying: "Thank you, we know you all put your life on the line for us. We honor you and your fallen comrade."



MY THOUGHTS

VIRGINIA HANDLEY | 283.2576

It's hard to believe that my year as President of the Foundation is coming to a close. To say the least, we have had our up and down moments.

Considerable positive feedback has been received on the "new look" and colors of the newsletter and stationery. The website is also getting a new look and should be available for viewing soon.

The Historic Marker at 40th and Meridian, nearly destroyed in a recent auto accident, has been repaired and returned to its rightful place. We can only hope the insurance company will come through and pay for the damages. Now if we could get the City to put a stoplight at 40th or 43rd Street and Meridian, we could maybe stop some of the accidents caused by speeders. If any one has PULL with the City and can help with acquiring stoplights, please call Kathy Shorter

283-5322. Kathy's Traffic Committee would be forever in your debt. One other traffic item: I know this will be hard to believe BUT if you travel at 35mph up or down Meridian Street between 38th and Westfield, you will make all the traffic lights. Synchronization Works! Thanks, Kathy, for this small miracle.

I am saddened to see all the For Sale signs in our area. Some might be due to lifestyle changes but most are because of the heavy tax burden. It takes more money to maintain these beautiful, old homes than to buy and maintain a new one. People are working now to try to get tax deductions to offset these high maintenance costs. Something needs to be done and soon.

Ethel and Ed Madden are to be thanked for all the work they did to get their yard ready for our annual picnic — then the rains came. Rain, however,

didn't stop us as our Social Chair, Elaine Klein, had a backup plan. The picnic was moved to Meridian Street Methodist church making for another great gathering anyway.

Hope you will be able to take a moment on the 21th of September, to stop by the Governor's Residence between 8am to 10am for a cup of coffee and to see the new addition. Thank you Governor and Mrs. Kernan for giving your neighbors this opportunity.

I'll close with a bouquet of words for Ruth Vignati. Ruth's leadership and expenditure of energy over the past 9 years as Chairman of the Land Use Committee has always been 150%. Ruth's knowledge about zoning and state laws will keep her phone ringing for wise advice and counsel. I know Ruth holds a special place in her heart for Meridian Street and we, past and present Board members, feel the same way about Ruth.



MERIDIAN
STREET
FOUNDATION

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HEARD ON THE STREET

All neighbors are invited to an informal open house at the Governor's Residence, 4750 N. Meridian Street, on Tuesday, September 21, 2004, from 8 to 10 am.

We welcome Dr. Richard and Ann Rich back to the neighborhood after an absence of too long.

Please attend the Annual Meeting and Dinner of the Meridian Street Foundation. The Announcement and Invitation are elsewhere in this issue. The Slate of Officers is: President, Kathy Shorter, Vice-President Erick Ponader, and returning for another year, Secretary Raul Burciaga and Treasurer Rosie Sweeney. The nominees for Board of Directors will be voted on as well during the annual meeting. Nominations from the floor will of course be accepted.

We have learned that the St. Margaret's Guild Decorator Show House will be back on Meridian Street in Spring, 2005.

MSF is hard at work with the city and other interested agencies on plans for Alice Carter Park improvements and also watching the progress on the 38th Street (Maple Road) major renovation.

***If you want to show support for the Meridian Street Foundation by paying your dues, please call Membership Chair, Cindy Zweber-Free at 921-9571 or email czwebfree@aol.com

Contact #'s for Meridian Street Preservation Commission applications, zoning and enforcement issues in addition to Tammara Tracy, Chair, 327-5155 email TTracy@indygov.org are Rachel Oneil 327-5380 RONEil@indygov.org, or Gala McGoy GMcgo@indygov.org 327-5014. Also applications are available on-line at the MSF website www.MeridianStreetFoundation.org. You can also contact the MSF Land Use Committee at lgilman@iupui.edu ph 255-9435 or Rosemary_Sweeney@excite.com ph.253-4552.

The Beautification Committee will be installing the last of the bulbs for the glorious springtime "River of Flowers" the weekend of October 9th and 10th. This is the culmination of three very successful plantings. If you have questions or are interested in helping, please call Kathy Shorter at 283-5322 or Melissa Oesterle at 925-9388.

If you have items which you feel would be of interest to your neighbors, contact Peggy Sabens at 257-3741 or email jmsabens@indy.net or fax 475-0224.

Mayor Bart Peterson has issued "Indianapolis Works", a very informative discussion of the state of the city. If you have not seen this in the newspaper, you can email Peggy Sabens at jmsabens@indy.net and I will email you a copy of this article.

BIOGRAPHY OF CHARLES EDWARD MADDEN

Biography by Peggy Sabens

Charles Edward (Ed) Madden, Indianapolis native and MSF Board member, has entrusted me to, in his words, "capsulize my life of nearly 78 years into a single paragraph" supplying me with a thoughtful and delightful compendium of achievements and very deep and studied insight into his life and experiences, including "events great and small, all incidents of joy, sadness and dullness, and all scars, warts and beauty marks". Ed is in a self-

described semi-retirement mode from the practice of law. He and Ethel Langer, his wife of 54 years, have lived in our neighborhood since 1951, where they have raised ten children who in turn have blessed them with twenty grandchildren. In addition to his law career he has had many years' experience as a CPA. Ed has continued his love of education which started back at St. Joan of Arc grade school and continued through Marmion Military Academy, Marquette University,

and the Indiana University School of Law into his retirement years participating in several architectural history and art appreciation courses in Paris, sponsored by the University of California, Berkeley, enhancing his long standing love of history and architecture. He also completed a course at Le Cordon Bleu, learning the Chef's 4 P's: Planning, Purchasing, Preparation and Presentation. He is a most valued member of the MSF Board.

GOOD NEWS, GOOD NEIGHBORS...



ALICE IN MERIDIAN LAND

ALICE BERGER | 283.2453

Saturday, August 21, I awoke marveling at the beauty of the day. The day before was unusually cold and rainy, the kind of day that gives you chills. But Saturday was glorious and I was on my way to a new event on Meridian Street.

Michael Quinn, president of the Friends of T.C. Steele, opened up his beautiful home at 5437 N. Meridian for what he called; "a paint out." This event had something for

everyone. A tour of the house, which has historical significance because it was the home of Kin Hubbard, creator of the fictional Abe Martin, eight artists with paintings of neighborhood scenes, all for sale, and a short course on T.C. Steele, the state's greatest art hero. Also, for those who wanted to know if Grandma's treasure had any value, an appraiser who could tell you if you held your fortune in your hands.

I ate ice cream, looked at wonderful art and spent a beautiful afternoon in a lovely garden among friends and neighbors. It was an historic event on Meridian Street and I hope to see all of you there next year at the Second Annual T.C. Steele Great Indianapolis Paint Out.

(Editor's Note: For further information, contact Mike Quinn, 371-9536)



ONE OF THE BEST STREETS IN AMERICA

Reprinted from Summer, 1990, News & Views. Appropriate because of our recently damaged and reinstalled historic marker at 40th & Meridian Streets.

PRESIDENT'S VIEWS

Jim Sabens

We MSF neighbors may find it hard not to be smug after reading the Indianapolis Star's recent news article (reprinted below) about an urban expert's comments that "North Meridian Street is one of the Great Streets of America." Reverend William Schwein, Minister at Meridian Street United Methodist Church, so aptly wrote in this regard: "Greatness comes not from being

served but from serving," and certainly Meridian Street has served us well. She has served as an avenue of commerce for business leaders and as a beautiful first impression of our city to new visitors and residents, as well as engendering warm recollections from returning neighbors and friends.

We invite all MSF neighbors to an open MSF board meeting on Wednesday, November 14, 1990 at 7:30 pm at the Meridian Street United Methodist Church.

The article below appeared on May 17 and is reprinted with the permission of the Indianapolis Star.

One of the best streets in America Cities expert praises charms of North Meridian

By Rob Schneider
Star Staff Writer

Without hesitation, Grady Clay points to the Circle as one of the city's best features and says Meridian Street north of 40th Street has to be considered on the list of great streets of America.

A resident of Louisville, KY., who has spent most of his life studying and writing about cities, Clay refers to city streets as a "public education institution disguised as a traffic-moving device."

While impressed with the Circle, Clay wonders what has happened to the "edges" of the Mile Square area of Downtown. Such edges would distinguish North, South, East and West streets as boundaries of the Mile Square.

"It's hard to know a city without edges," said Clay, who will speak at 8 p.m. today at the Indiana World War Memorial auditorium as part of Historic Preservation Week activities here. The lecture on changes taking place in cities is free to the public.

Clay, who has served as urban affairs editor of the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, editor of several national architectural and planning publications and chairman of the jury that selected the design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, said edges are important

because they allow people to distinguish "between here and there".

"There is great human comfort in knowing we have come from this place to another place," Clay noted.

One way to help people realize where they are and where they are going would be to create what Clay calls "arrival zones," or gateway districts.

The most logical places for such zones are along the interstate, or those places that offer the traveler "that rare moment when the terrain is high enough you can see into the city."

At such locations, Clay advocates sites where the traveler could stop and view the city with a computerized city map laid out in front of the viewer.

By touching the map, the traveler could obtain a printout of information about that segment of the city and how to reach it.

One place any traveler should look at is Meridian Street north of 40th Street, Clay contends.

It's a wonderfully consistent expanse of high-quality landscaped settings for an

extraordinary variety of architectural styles of houses." Clay said. "This was clearly the best address in the 1920s and has maintained unusual quality right up to the present."

"Among the great streets of America, North Meridian Street is certainly one of the top contenders."

When asked what he thought the city could do to make the Downtown more enjoyable for workers as well as visitors. Clay said he prefers cities with multiple doorways per block rather than "castles" that occupy an entire block with one entry to peer in.

"One doorway per block reduces choice." Clay pointed out "When it suddenly starts to rain, where do you get under cover? When you want to buy a newspaper, a smoke or a drink, where do you go?"

The "corporate headquarters" look tends to dominate in many blocks Downtown, Clay said. But architects have some responsibility to the street as well as to the client, he contends.

"Streets used to offer multiple possibilities, but in the downtown of most cities, those possibilities have shrunk and the one-doorway-per-block is a device for shrinking human possibilities."



RESTORATION OF A MERIDIAN STREET HOME: BY THE RESTORATION FAMILY

As the last of the brick masons, carpenters, electricians, plumbers and other workmen had loaded their tools and were leaving smiling, many told me with great feeling: “Never have I enjoyed my work more.” They left a great quiet and a certain feeling of finality on our part of Meridian Street for the first time in five long years of major renovation.

Now we can walk around and see the house in its entirety, the house that we envisioned five years ago. Many times we had doubts that the hopes of our hearts would ever be fulfilled.

Upon completion of the interior, we pretended we were strangers seeing the finished product for the first time. As we proceeded from the brick, arched front door entrance and throughout the 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors, the man of the house remembered the old saying: “Be careful what you set your heart on, you may get it.” It is true that in time you come in the end to the place where your heart is...that is, if you set your heart on an attainable place.

Was it worth the time and price? Our minister once said, “The good Lord protects children and fools.” After our experiences, we now know there must be many fools living on Meridian Street between 40th and Westfield Boulevard. What would most of us say when asked: Why would we buy a termite infested house with a leaking slate roof, sagging copper gutters, rotting wood/leaded window sashes and sills, an antiquated boiler along with faulty electrical wiring and bad plumbing? A likely answer might be, “We didn't know how bad it was.” (See photos) Or, “We don't know. Must have been the attraction of living in an historic district and charming neighborhood.” In retrospect: “perhaps stupidity and foolishness when you consider the increase in property taxes.”

But, maybe we were not fools after all...maybe just Romantics of a higher strain or order. Like Abe Lincoln said, “Genius disdains the well beaten path and seeks regions hither to unexplored.” There is a kind of adventure and magic in the soul of the romantic that makes the world a gentler and more bearable place. Sometimes a romantic can do the impossible...maybe even miracles.

Here we stand looking out onto North Meridian through restored windows, thanks to Clara and Don at Fox Studios. All windows are either restored or are new thanks to Pella Windows. There are also more than 90 new or restored doors. The kitchen is new as is all the wiring and plumbing. Many gutters and downspouts are new. Additionally, all

bathrooms are either new or restored to look new. Whew! No wonder we feel exhausted!

How many times have we heard and experienced the problems of restoration without pictures or drawings like our fountain in the solarium. Or, being in need of a tank top on our old water closet in the Jack and Jill bath. Or, sitting for hours looking at a problem after being told by expert craftsmen, “It's not possible” and suddenly finding the answer or finding the one person who could solve the problem. Doc and Debbie Keys at White River Antiques & Salvage helped solve many problems like matching the missing marble in the Solarium or the slate on the old roof. They also helped with the stripping of old interior doors and the matching of missing hardware.

Put together all those impossible happenstances and you might just believe in guardian angels or patron saints, even the spirits of former owners long since dead who lead us to the right persons or places for parts and ideas to bring their beloved home back to a state of splendor and to make it home for another 80 years.

But here is another thought: What if there are such spirits or angels — they do not rattle chains in the attic or have wings — they simply have dirty hands, wear paint splattered jeans and sweat shirts and have names like Mary, Eddie, Jim, etc.? And what if the magic is as simple as what Napoleon Hill said years ago: “What the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve.” Yes, maybe “belief” in the possibilities of these old homes on Meridian Street is so irresistibly strong that the parts and people to get the job done are drawn to us like a magnet picks up nails. After all, the mind of a Romantic is a powerful force and no matter what we do or do not believe, there is no questioning that if the rebirth of these old homes is a miracle, it is crafted out of hours, days and months, even years, of painstakingly patient and loving effort on the part of some very dedicated, stubborn people.

In fact, it is fighting and living with 80 year old dirt, moving ladders and lights at night to finish one project only to find, much to your chagrin, that this one leads to ten even more difficult tasks and the making of more dust. Meanwhile, the rest of the world is going to parties, eating at good restaurants, catching up on all the current movies, TV, books and enjoying family and friends.

So why do we do it? Maybe it is because we understand, as Romantics do, with all the pain and bad days the world is capable of



dishing out, how important it is to preserve history, to remember and to experience the beauty of the past. Maybe it is because we believe that when the last house on historic Meridian Street is bulldozed or falls down for lack of maintenance, Meridian will become merely another highway to get you downtown and out again. Maybe it is because there is a kind of wonderful magic that occurs when you bring anything — even an old house — back to life.

Sure, we do it for the same reason all Romantics fall head over heels in love and do whatever it takes to make the object of our affection safe, sound, secure for years to come. Yes, it has been said that all lovers are fools and perhaps many on Meridian are fools...Romantics, even angels or saints who bring dreams to life and who keep our historic strip of Meridian Street from becoming just another route from Westfield to 38 Street. Some property tax relief will help keep this tragedy from ever occurring.

In summary, some will argue that the restoration of an old house is not a miracle at all — just tons of debris and hard, skilled work plus 10s of thousands of dollars and thousands of hours of labor to make it happen. (Remember the movie “MoneyTrap”) We own one, but we love what we own!

[Editor's Note: The owners of this beautifully restored property are too private to want their address published. We respect that. The husband is too modest to brag about the fact that he personally performed many of the touches that make this restoration one of quality with reflections of old world craftsmanship. Congratulations!]



ROME NKOSI

Rome Nkosi, is single, no wife, kids, not even a dog. While he loves people and animals he claims that frequent travel is partly responsible for his singledom. Rome comes to Indianapolis via Detroit, where he was born and raised; living in Southfield for 13 years before moving to Indy. He moved to Indianapolis in 1999 to help open a local office for TIAA-CREF. TIAA-CREF manages retirement plans for colleges, universities and many non-profit organizations like the Historical Society. Currently an investment consultant with TIAA-CREF Rome has a degree in finance from Lawrence University and was a stockbroker before he joined TIAA-CREF. He grew up in an area called Sherwood Forest, very similar to Butler Tarkington. His childhood is where he developed his appreciation for historic residences. He enjoys fitness, reading, traveling, Toastmasters and working with members to improve the Meridian Street Foundation community.

RUTH VIGNATI HAS DECAMPED

BY ROME NKOSI 921.8881

If you're new to the street, the name may not mean much, but you are apt to have seen Ruth, an avid walker, out in the mornings. If you're a long-time resident, you are almost certain to know her name, if not her face. She served as president of the Meridian Street Foundation, on the board for more than a decade, and as head of the land-use committee for about the same length of time. If you've ever taken an issue before the Meridian Street Preservation Commission, you are sure to know Ruth. She's the petite woman, sitting front right, listening more intently than about anyone else in the room, the one who can quote verbatim from the law governing our street, the one who manages to remain calm no matter how ruffled everyone else is getting.

That's the Ruth who has left us — but not before she accomplished three important things that affect everyone living in this historic neighborhood.

In 1990, moving vans carrying Skip and Ruth Vignati's possessions rolled out of Boston and headed for Meridian Street. Skip had taken a job with Eli Lilly and Ruth, an East Coaster to the core, found herself smack in the midst of the Midwest. They bought the house on Meridian not because they knew anything about the street but because they love old homes and this one reminded them vividly of their center-hall colonial in Massachusetts. "When I walked into the Meridian Street house," says Ruth, "it felt like home but on a grander scale."

Ruth never has been and never will be an idle sort, so she quickly found herself sitting on the board of the Meridian Street Foundation. "I can remember the very first board meeting I attended: I wanted to know what was being done about the speed on Meridian Street." Ruth quickly found



herself drawn into discussions about historic preservation, although she didn't know about the law governing the street. During the meetings over changes at 49th and Penn, someone gave Ruth a file about the street that included a copy of the law. "The more I learned about the historic street and how people had fought to get this law and how they had fought the demolition of these houses, the more I wanted to learn. The law had fallen off the radar at the foundation, but that is really why the foundation was formed."

In the subsequent years, Ruth pushed, prodded, and cajoled — persistently and tenaciously forcing city officials and Meridian Street Preservation Commission members to pull out their copies of the law, dust them off, and read them. Alice Berger, another active Meridian Street Foundation member, says, "Ruth stood up at every [MSPC] meeting for years and referred to the law when it came to any application. She had the courage to do that, even though it didn't make her popular."

No, Ruth has not always been popular, but she has always been even handed. Ruth feels that decisions about the neighborhood should be guided by the law, regardless of who is making the petition. And that was Ruth's first achievement: refocusing official attention on the law when considering every petition for change in the historic district.

That first achievement is closely tied to the second: reviving the Land Use Committee. As Ruth came to know the law well and admire its clarity of vision and purpose, she spearheaded reforming the Land Use Committee. The committee has been vital to the MSF ever since, as

members help neighbors understand how the law applies to them and what are considered appropriate and inappropriate changes to homes. The Land Use Committee, for example, worked hard to oppose rezoning of the former filling station property at 46th and Illinois. Rezoning would have opened the door to a variety of commercial uses, which might be completely inappropriate for the neighborhood.

Ruth's third achievement springs from the other two. Looking around the city, she realized that many neighborhoods have a land-use plan, created in concert with the city, which acts as a blueprint for future developments for that area. Butler-Tarkington and Meridian Kessler each have one that includes Meridian Street, but there was no plan that put the historic district first. Ruth explains, "Our objective in having a land-use plan is to keep this neighbor residential. Yes, the commercial areas near us are important to the dynamics of the neighborhood, but we don't want them to eclipse the residences."

Creating the plan had to be budgeted by the city, and that took a long time. Then, the city wanted about 33 zoning changes incorporated into the historic district. As Ruth says, "We didn't win all the battles, but we won some major ones." Now, thanks to Ruth's leadership, we have a plan that must be followed for our neighborhood.

What didn't Ruth achieve during her years on the street? The very first thing she was concerned with: the way cars speed along the street. Ruth sighs, "Nothing has ever happened about the speed, and that issue is brought up all the time."

And what will Ruth miss? "I'm not going to miss anything about this neighborhood, because I'm going to be back here often!"

MERIDIAN STREET CRIMEWATCH PROGRAM



Indianapolis Police Department CrimeWatch Program

IPD CrimeWatch Program
50 N. Alabama Street, Suite E108
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
(317) 327-3781

In April 1976, the City of Indianapolis, The Indianapolis News, and the Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee formulated the concepts that have propelled the existing CrimeWatch Program. The purpose of CrimeWatch is to create a self-help cooperative effort to reduce crime and the fear of crime in the neighborhoods.

CrimeWatch is a unit of the Indianapolis Police Department. Citizens participating in this program become more aware of crime prevention techniques that can help lower their risk of becoming victims. A proactive approach against crime is taken through communication and cooperation of citizens, law enforcement, and local government. Over time, CrimeWatch has developed additional programs in response to the needs of the community. These programs also promote crime prevention education, which has been, and continues to be, the goal of CrimeWatch.

For more information visit www.indygov.org/ipd/crimewatch or contact the CrimeWatch Zone 7 IPD representative:

Debbie Fletcher
Office of Community Relations
Indianapolis Police Department — North District
317.327.6165



GOOD NEWS, GOOD TIMES...



TRAFFIC COMMITTEE THANKS OUR WONDERFUL POLICEMEN

Enforcement of the 35 MPH speed limit along Meridian has continued to be aggressive. MSF is extremely grateful to Ben Hunter, our community IPD liaison, and to all the officers who have helped to keep the speed limit down.

Remember that school is back in session! On Meridian, please be

especially careful to slow down when people stop to enter driveways to pick up carpools. It is especially important not to rapidly change lanes when a car in front of you slows down to turn into a driveway. If you change lanes, you put the turning car at great risk of being hit from behind.

We are planning future campaigns

and actions to help calm traffic on Meridian, MKNA, and Butler Tarkington neighborhood streets, especially during rush hour. Meanwhile, be a good citizen, and set the example. Drive the speed limit!

Kathy Shorter
MSF Traffic Committee Chairman

EDITOR'S NOTE

Meridian Street Foundation News & Views is the communication arm of the Meridian Street Foundation, published three times a year. We welcome comments and ideas from our neighbors. Our main thrust is to reinforce the idea that while a certain degree of discipline and commitment is necessary to live in a unique and significant neighborhood, the rewards far outweigh any disadvantages.

Peggy Sabens ph. 257-3741, fax 475-0224, email jmsabens@indy.net, Kathy Shorter, Vaughn Hickman. Also, Rome Nkosi, email rnkosi@aol.com attn: MSF, will gladly accept letters or comments for inclusion in upcoming issues.

GOING BEYOND THE NUMBERS OF INDIANAPOLIS WORKS

BY RICHARD F. PICCOLO | 255-6751

Among the benefits listed in the Vision Statement of the Mayor's Indianapolis Works consolidation Plan is to streamline local government, and make Indianapolis "even more competitive" with other cities. The proposals outlined in the Mayor's Plan to consolidate local governments are not only expected to produce at least \$35 million in annual savings, but will eliminate the need for 250 new sheriff's deputies, which would cost an additional \$20 million annually.

In addition to the above, the Plan calls for the creation of a new Indianapolis-Marion County Public Safety Pension Authority, which will focus on securing the long-term viability of the city's public safety pension plans, particularly with regard to the pre-1977 unfunded liability, presently valued at \$470 million over the next 25 years.

During the next several months the focus, by proponents as well as opponents of the Plan, will likely be on explaining, examining, and interpreting the details behind the Mayor's numbers. In fact, as pointed out in a recent IBJ article by Peter Schnitzler, township trustees from around the state have commissioned an IU study to prove that the township structure is actually more efficient

than city, county or state equivalents. Moreover, as Mr. Schnitzler writes, Marion County Trustees have already written their own plan that would provide a \$20 million savings by allowing the township fire departments to take

to become "even more competitive," or to remain competitive in today's environment — whether a city, a school district, or a professional football team — you have to deliver greater value to your customers than your competitors or create a comparable value at a lower cost, or do both. Operational efficiencies and cost reductions, whether achieved by businesses, or by city, county, or state governments, or by townships, are temporary at best, and merely baseline performance in today's world. Fortunately, or unfortunately, consumers today have more choices, and, therefore, less tolerance for inefficiencies by those providing products and services to them. Our political leaders, almost imperceptibly, are becoming aware of this unwritten rule.

Therefore, as the proponents and opponents of the Plan debate the numbers, it is incumbent upon the rest of us to see that the Mayor, and the township trustees for that matter, explain how each would position their administration and personnel to insure that the activities they will be undertaking (their Operating Effectiveness more than their Efficiency) will provide access to the variety of services that are necessary to meet the needs of the people, on a timely and consistent basis.

According to the Plan annual savings would be realized by the following:

Merge Police Departments

IPD, and the Marion County Sheriff's Department into a Metropolitan Police Department — to include Airport Police, Housing Police, and Park Rangers
Estimated annual operating savings \$ 9,700,000

Consolidate Fire Service

IFD, eight township fire departments, and the airport fire department into a new department referred to as the Indianapolis Fire Department
Estimated annual savings 19,000,000

Consolidate Budget Accountability

Create Office of Finance and Management, headed by city controller, to be responsible for all city and county budgets, except that of courts and prosecutor
Estimated annual savings 910,000

Restructure and Streamline Townships

Merge, consolidate and/or streamline assessors functions, poor relief, and achieve administrative efficiencies in small claims courts
Estimated annual savings 2,785,000

Remaining Minor Residual County Functions

Transferred to city and county departments weed control, maintenance of parks and cemeteries, etc.
Estimated annual savings 2,800,000

Total Annual Savings

\$35,195,000

over some of the IFD territory.

The majority of the savings under the Mayor's plan come from creating operating efficiencies, reducing overhead and administrative costs, consolidating services, eliminating duplicative services, and attrition and retirement of personnel. The validity of the savings dollars notwithstanding,

GOOD NEWS, GOOD MEMORIES...



REAL ESTATE ROUNDUP

BY G.B. LANDRIGAN, REALTOR

The MSF area has long been among Central Indiana's strongest markets. Following last year's property tax controversy, the market dipped to an unusually low level in our area in the last half of 2003. Buyers simply were postponing their buying decisions, leaving homes on the market. The rather bizarre wintry weather was also not particularly friendly to the market. Beginning in mid-

February, however, we began to see this inventory lessening in certain price categories in the area. It is my thought that we will experience sales activity for the MSF area at near-normal levels as spring and summer approach.

The average price for a home in the Indianapolis area is \$148,103. The average sales price per square foot is \$63. Here are the Board of Realtors' statistics for the MSF area:

BOARD OF REALTOR'S MSF STATISTICS

NORTH MERIDIAN STREET
Homes Currently For Sale: 10
Average List Price: \$714,460
List Price Per Square Foot: \$187
Homes Currently Pending: 2
Homes Closed since 1/2004: 8

NORTH PENNSYLVANIA STREET
Homes Currently For Sale: 9
Average List Price: \$490,761
List Price Per Square Foot: \$143
Homes Currently Pending: 2
Homes Closed since 1/2004: 13
Average Sales Price: \$393,383
Sales Price Per S/F: \$143

NORTH ILLINOIS STREET
Homes Currently For Sale: 7
Average List Price: \$295,057
List Price Per Square Foot: \$129
Homes Currently Pending: 4
Homes Closed since 1/2004: 9
Average Sales Price: \$358,000
Sales Price Per S/F: \$129

SIDE STREETS
Homes Currently For Sale: 2
Average List Price: \$254,900
List Price Per Square Foot: \$122
Homes Currently Pending: 1
Homes Closed since 1/2004: 9

BAD NEWS, RAIN...

GOOD NEWS, NO ANTS!



OUR MISSION



MERIDIAN
STREET
FOUNDATION

The Meridian Street Foundation is a charitable (501C3) foundation originally organized in 1960. The Foundation's chief purposes are the maintenance and improvement of existing health, safety and ecological standards, and the preservation of the architectural, historic and aesthetic significance of residential North Meridian Street and the neighborhood in which it lies.

Please Note: We live in the North Meridian Street Historic District, governed by the Meridian Street Preservation Act of 1971, administered by the Meridian Street Preservation Commission. Before undertaking any changes in structure or usage of your property, please check with either the MSPC or the Land Use Committee of the Meridian Street Foundation.