

MICHIGAN

CITY,

INDIANA

1832-1975

By- Nellie Behrmdt

(VHS)

Beautiful

and

Historical

Places in

Michigan  
City

By - Debbie  
Behrman

# Michigan City, Indiana

## History

Michigan City, Indiana is forty miles southeast of Chicago, at the mouth of Trail Creek. It was founded in 1832 as the northern terminus of the old Michigan Road. It has a fine lakefront and beach and is a popular summer resort. At one time, it was a port rivaling Chicago. It still has good harbor facilities, and these are in prospect of taking on new importance with the building of a Bethlehem Steel Company facility twelve miles away that will have an eventual capacity of 10,000,000 tons of tin, plate, and hot rolled steel. Michigan City has a symphony orchestra, an art league and choral and theatrical groups. Nearby are the world famous Friendship Gardens with garden plots of different nationalities and an outdoor Theater of Nations where Operatic

and symphonic concerts are  
given. Michigan City's population  
is 36,653.

Elston school occupies the oldest building used for school purposes in Michigan City. The lot used was donated to the city of Michigan City by Major Elston in 1833 for educational purposes. The same lot is in use today. At the beginning of the school year 1907, the attendance at public schools was stated to be 3,000. Five Elston school buildings have been erected with the first one in 1869. Elston now is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Elston and Rogers both have higher standards than the state.

Indiana's most famous landmark was here in Michigan City. It was Hoosier Slide. It had no vegetation except for a few gnarled tree trunks that had long ago given up the battle of survival.

The three largest users of the sand from Hoosier Slide were: Ball Bros. of Muncie, Indiana who made fruit jars, Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. of Kokomo, Indiana who made plate glass, and Hemingway Glass Co. for glass insulators to go on telephone poles. Also, some of the sand was shipped across the United States to Mexico. The greatest demand for sand was during World War I. By 1920, Hoosier Slide had disappeared with dunes that covered west beach area. Approximately thirty carloads of sand a day were carried out over a thirty year period, which came to a total of 13½ million tons of sand. In 1925, the leveled land that was Hoosier Slide was sold. The NIPSCO generating plant now covers the largest sand

mountain in the United States - Hoover Slide.

Our state prison may not be the most beautiful sight in Michigan City, but it does have some history in its background. The coming of the prison attracted more factories to the Michigan City area. There was already an Indiana state prison in Jeffersonville. The Michigan City site was chosen on March 1, 1860, because we had three railroads going in three directions, as well as the lake traffic.

One of the most beautiful spots in Michigan City is Friendship Gardens. Thousands of people come yearly to see it. Friendship Gardens covers approximately 100 acres of beautiful plants and flowers from all over the world. The plants are donated from many

lands. Some plants are  
Contributed to this world  
renowned sight from foreign  
governments.

There are many beautiful  
homes in Michigan City. Some  
during the late 1800's and early  
1900's were: Res. of Hon. Uriah  
Gilbert, Res. of R. W. Couch, Res. of  
C. E. Arnt, and Res. of Mayor  
Krueger (who was mayor during  
that time. There are a few  
Barker homes in Michigan  
City. One of them is the Barker  
Mansion which is open to the  
public.

Our lakefront has a lot of  
beach resorts and homes. The  
building of the lift bridge going  
into Washington Park to replace  
the swing bridge greatly helped  
the beach resorts. The original  
cottage still stands. The first  
lots sold for \$250<sup>00</sup> - \$300<sup>00</sup>. Sheridan  
Beach was a very popular

resort area.

Roger's Senior High School was built in 1971. It is a member of North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. It's standards are higher than the state's.

Purdue North Central sets on the south side of town. It has a wide range of academic courses. It has increasing favor each ensuing year.

In our school district there are two non-public high schools and five non-public elementary schools. Within a hundred miles, there are many colleges and universities varying in size and reputation, many are the prestige schools of the mid-west.

Washington Park has been ~~said~~ said to be one of the finest small city parks in the

United States, it is nestled on the side of many sand dunes. Washington Park has over 300 animals.

There are many state dunes in Indiana and Michigan. There is Warren Dunes in Michigan, Dunes National Park in Indiana, and many many more. There are many public beaches in and around Michigan City. There is: Mt. Baldy, Tedder's Alley, Washington Park Beach, and many miles of private beach. Our beach has singing sands. When you walk on the beach the sand "squeaks." This is one of the few places in the world with singing sands.

Through the generosity of the Barker family and various friends of Michigan City, the home of John Barker, former industrialist and one of the

City's business community is used as our civic center. The home, with many of its original furnishings is considered to be one of the ten finest former homes in the country opened to public use. The events and uses of the home range from visits by individuals to organized tours, from small meetings to well attended recitals. This intense use of the home would certainly please John Barker, as in his day he donated large sums to Michigan City for many civic projects.

Each year, the Canterbury Theater presents a full summer season of professional theatre, presenting comedy, drama, and musical productions of past Broadway hits. The winter schedule is not quite as full, but a good number of quality productions are presented.

The Dunes Art Foundation

Each summer presents a varied program of theatrical productions, using many talented residents of the area. In addition to its adult theater, talented local children are encouraged to develop their talents through their Children's Theatre. The Dunes Art Foundation does not confine its activities to the performing arts, as it also encourages local painters and artists in varied media.

Drawing on local talent, the Footlight Players, each summer presents a wide variety of amateur theatrical productions of an exceptionally high order.

In recent years the Michigan City Community Concert Association series has started. Using the new facilities at Rogers High School, they present

nationally and internationally known performances in Concert.

In addition to these independant groups, the high schools present an array of performances, orchestral, vocal and dramatic, to suit the tastes of just about everyone.

The Peristyle in Washington Park was given to the park the Honorable John N. Barber. It was built in 1924 and again rehabilitated in 1931 by his daughter, Mrs. Catherine Barber Hickey.

Michigan City stands up to comparison, in every sector of the life of the city there has been a challenge, and this challenge has been met and overcome.

Tremendous pressure was placed on the community by vast industrial expansion that brought thousands of new residents to the area. New homes and apartment buildings were erected to meet the increased housing need. New schools were built and others enlarged to educate the children. Shopping centers emerged and the downtown was transformed into an inviting mall. Modern motels and restaurants were built. Growth continues in a sane and orderly fashion because Michigan City enjoys the participation of all its citizens in civic affairs. The city has more than 100 houses of worship, representing almost

every denomination and three faiths - Christian, Jewish, and Moslem.

New churches are added each year, attesting to the stable moral fiber of the community. Just as the city's public schools are being utilized for the benefit of all residents, many of the churches throw open their doors to all residents of the neighborhood.

The transition from a leading resort city to a major industrial center may seem a difficult one, but Michigan City has taken the change in stride and profited by it. This progressive community has been able to preserve all the charm and excitement of resort living while expanding and building for the growing population that accompanied the influx of industry.

# Notes

(December 16, 1975)

1. The way you deliver your oral presentation.  
a. Speak loud and clear to be heard by everybody.
2. Pictures and drawings, maps, etc.
3. Written report (5 pages - written clearly)
4. Participation
5. Attention

## Class Presentations

### Reporter

1. Write your topic on the board.
2. Speak loud and clear to be heard by everybody.
3. Do not read your report. Use an outline form as a guide.
4. Show pictures or drawings to illustrate your topic.
5. Write difficult words on the board and explain the meaning of each.
6. Be able to answer questions asked by the class.
7. Ask questions based on your topic.

## People sitting

1. Pay attention to the one speaking
2. Take down important notes
3. Do not interrupt, if you have any questions wait until the reporter is done
- 4.

# Map of Indiana



INDIANA  
SCALE OF MILES



Counties

An advertisement for the Michigan City Institute for one term ran as follows:

For a quarter of eleven weeks,

All branches in the juvenile department.....	\$2.50
Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, English Grammar and Geography.....	3.40
Use of Globes.....	.50
Algebra, Geometry, History, Natural History, Botany and Chemistry.....	5.00
Latin and English Languages, Mental and Moral Philosophy, and the higher branches of Mathematics.....	6.00
Drawing and French Language.....	7.00

Tuition strictly in advance. Students not received for less time than one - half a quarter. No deduction for absence except for sickness. Male students board at the institutē; \$2.50 a week. Female students are accomodated in private homes.