

Some ideas about what the “if you grew up in Ft. Sq.” group can do

1. Organize to help our current organization of residents make sure the Ft. Sq. library isn't closed There is a group organized to save the library. For those who use it, this branch is vital for getting on-line if you have no Internet at home. Contact Ms. Donna Gaebel at 631-8709/251-4266 or contact jbryan138@gmail.com

2. Organize to maintain the history of country music in Ft. Sq. The Ft Sq is now designed an Indy “Cultural District,” where city residents and visitors can visit. But, whose culture are we talking about. It sure ain't my culture!

Let's start w/ the 50s/60s: local and now national/international famous original rockabilly artist Lattie Moore played the Fountain Square Tavern (1132 Prospect St.)--remember his song, ”Here I am, I'm drunk again”? Also, remember the Old Frontier Club (1539 Shelby St.) & The Roundup (828 Virginia Ave.).

I played county music in the early 80s. The Ft. Sq. then had many “honky tonks” within about a mile of each other where folks could listen and dance to country music played by local bands: Flo's Cardinal Bar (936 Virginia); Ray's Place (1021 Virginia); 2001 Lounge (2001 Shelby St.); Charlie Boggs CB Lounge (1845 Shelby); Woodcutters Bar (1417 Prospect); and Doug's Drinking Fountain Tavern (1705 Prospect). And, there was Mickey & Bob's (1328 Bates St./Irish Hill) and the Southway Tavern (1847 S. State St.)

This history needs to be preserved. The current genre of alternative music in bars here is fine with me, but it hides the history of country music at Ft Sq we need to save.

p.s. I have a recording of my interview with Lattie Moore and 2 other local county music legends that need to be transcribed. Is anyone interested?

3. Organize to maintain the history of Hosbrook Street. Due to the gentrification of Ft Sq, the original residents of Hosbrook are gone or leaving. The former Olivet Baptist Church (1001 Hosbrook at Grove moved to 4141 N. High School Rd) is now the Grove Haus, “an eclectic events place.” See: <http://grovehaus.com/> Back in '54-'55, when schools started to integrate, I went to 5th/6th grade at No. 8 (Virginia & Lexington) with then Hosbrook resident Barbara “Stinky” Brown.

Does anyone know anyone who lived there or lives there now? We have to save this history. If we can work with everybody to collect stories and pictures, we can help make sure Indy never forgets the history of those who grew up in Ft Sq. on Hosbrook.

4. Organize to have a mural on the history of labor added to the murals in Ft. Sq. We can't forget that many of our parents/grandparents/great grandparents, family, friend & neighbors labor/labored 5 or more days a week. We can't forget that in the past they also worked for RESPECT: a 40 week/pay for over-time, safe working conditions, & a decent wage & benefits. Some we are related to probably got in trouble or lost their life for seeking this respect.

As you know, Ft. Sq is the center of community murals in Indy. We can take advantage of this theme to make sure this history is respected and saved by organizing ourselves to have mural on the history of labor added to murals here.

5. Organize a “scan-a-thon” for those who grew up in Ft Sq A “scan a thon” is where people organize to get pictures, letters, and other mementos scanned & saved on a disc/thumb drive and taken home. If anyone knows, in 2010 folks who grew up on the Southside (west of Madison Ave & east of West St) had a neighborhood “scan a thon” at the Concord Center where many older residents/neighbors scanned keepsakes. Can't we organize one at SE 901 Shelby?

p.s. As a result of that Concord Cntr event, a book titled, *A neighborhood of Saturdays* was published <http://neighborhoodofsaturdays.com/> which saved that area's history.

6. Organize to do a video on the history of Wood HS. Why? In the summer of 1996, Ch. 8's newscaster Mr. Mike Ahern's film *Indy in the 50's* was shown on WFYI/Ch 20. As Mr. Ahern reviewed that decade, he mentioned *all* Indy's public high schools...except Wood. Why? This is odd since Wood opened in Sept of 1953 and so solidly in the 50's. Here's the link to the trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WWZVoba7C88>

Wood has a unique story to tell and needs to be heard and *seen* by current and future Americans. But, it won't happen unless we organize.

p.s. Also, this fall, WFYI showed a documentary, *Attucks: The school that opened a city*.

7. Join the Ft Sq Historical Society The society meets once each month at the Ft Sq library to discuss the history and people of the Ft Sq. Contact Mr. Robert Carey 737-7000

johnharrisloflin@yahoo.com