

Mishawaka: A History

by Peter J. De Kever

“We should always bear in mind that Mishawaka should be a distinct and separate community with its own inspiration,” wrote Vincent Brunner, the city historian, in his manuscript *Mishawaka, Its Rise and Progress*. Brunner was born in 1862, immigrated from Switzerland at age 5, and spent the rest of his life in Mishawaka. For decades, he gathered stories and clippings about the history of Mishawaka up to its centennial celebration in 1932 and wrote 137 essays that comprised the book.

Though Brunner’s manuscript was never published, his research laid the foundation for subsequent efforts to tell the story of Mishawaka. Brunner was a Mishawaka patriot and urged his fellow citizens to resist anything that might surrender their city’s sovereignty or diminish its identity. To that end, Brunner wanted Mishawakans to know their own history, to savor the city’s rich traditions, and to “reverence the name Mishawaka.”

Ninety years later, the need to safeguard Mishawaka’s unique identity and to educate its citizens about their collective past remains as profound as in Brunner’s time. With that intent, the City of Mishawaka has commissioned this history of Mishawaka from its origins to the present day.

The original residents of the land that became Mishawaka were the Potawatomi Indians, the most populous tribe in the St. Joseph Valley. The Potawatomi had numerous villages in the region, including one on the south bank of the St. Joseph River located in the area bounded today

by Lincolnway West and North Main and West Streets. The Potawatomi were drawn to this location by the ease of transport the river provided, a ford near a natural rapids, abundant fish and game, and access to timber. Their term for the area, *M'Shehwahkeek*, translates as “swift flowing water” or “heavy timbered rapids.”

The Potawatomi presence continued until about 1820, the year in which a smallpox epidemic so horrified the Indians that they abandoned the area and never returned. In an 1821 treaty, the Potawatomi ceded five million acres in a strip of land ten miles south of the Indiana state line, and subsequent treaties deprived them of the remainder of their land in the region. Most Potawatomi moved to western Iowa and later to Kansas. George Merrifield, a pioneer and historian of early Mishawaka, later wrote that the Indians were said “to regard themselves as exiles and to look back to the St. Joseph Valley-- from which they think they were wrongfully ejected by our Government-- as the most desirable spot on earth.”

Knowledge of the Potawatomi's life in the land later known as Mishawaka is fragmentary because the Indians had been absent from the region for a decade before the first permanent white settlers arrived in the area.

Prior to 1830, the St. Joseph Valley was largely inaccessible, except for the St. Joseph River and Indian trails from Fort Wayne and Detroit. The region was not officially opened for settlement until the late 1820s. Among the earliest white settlers in the immediate vicinity of Mishawaka were Coe, Mote, and Skinner, who came in 1830. The Irelands and several other families arrived the next year. Joseph Pemberton, Hart, and a Frenchman named St. Combe built cabins near Mishawaka in 1831 and 1832. Historian Janice Bridges asserts that Pemberton's lathe, used to make chairs and bed posts, was the first manufacturing enterprise in the Mishawaka area.

In 1832, Alanson Mead Hurd, an entrepreneur from Detroit, heard reports of significant bog iron deposits in the St. Joseph Valley, where he hoped to construct a blast furnace to melt the bog iron into pig iron for use in manufacturing. That summer, Hurd sent William Earl to scout the best location to build an iron works. Earl found a large bog iron deposit near the “Twin Branches,” three miles upriver from what is today downtown Mishawaka, as well as deposits elsewhere in the area.

Later that year, Hurd traveled to St. Joseph County to purchase ore and water rights for a blast furnace in the Twin Branches. When he saw the natural fall in the river near present-day Central Park, he was convinced that the location’s waterpower potential made it a better site for the iron works. Merrifield later noted, “The foresight and sagacity of Mr. Hurd were eminently justified in the result.”

On January 1, 1833, Hurd purchased the 640 acres of School Section 16 for \$1.25 an acre and began constructing the iron works and other related buildings. At the heart of the iron works was a blast furnace, which was ready for operation in early 1834.

As the blast furnace was built, the village of St. Joseph Iron Works was platted to the south in the summer of 1833 and founded on July 15. Hurd sold most of the land he had bought to developers eager to invest in a growing village.

In 1834, the iron works began producing pig iron, and orders began coming in from as far north as the Grand River in Michigan and as far south as Indianapolis. Most of the iron was used for castings, such as stoves, kettles, plows, and gears for mills. The rest of the pig iron was shipped back to Detroit or used by local blacksmiths. Historian Merle Blue notes that from 1835-1845 “Mishawaka was the largest center of heavy industry, not just in St. Joseph County, but in the entire Great Lakes area west of Detroit.”

The year 1834 saw numerous firsts in the young settlement. In the spring, a post office was established. Henry Yerrington, the first postmaster and Hurd's clerk and bookkeeper, suggested the settlement use the name "Mishawaka." In the summer, the Presbyterian Church was organized as the "First Presbyterian Trinitarian Society of the Village of St. Joseph Iron Works," and today the First Presbyterian Church remains the oldest continuously operating organization in Mishawaka. A log schoolhouse was built, and Miss Sheldon was hired as the first teacher in Mishawaka. In the autumn, Orlando Hurd constructed the Mishawaka Hotel, which became known as the best hotel on the Vistula Road between Chicago and Toledo. The first marriage performed in Mishawaka was for Thomas Dean and Julia Lincoln on April 3. The first children born in Mishawaka were Indiana Yerrington and Charles Lucas.

Alanson Hurd, the Father of Mishawaka, was sole proprietor of St. Joseph Iron Works until December 1834 when he formed the St. Joseph Iron Company with three other partners: John Orr, John Deming, and J.E. Hollister. Hurd served as its first president.

On January 31, 1835, St. Joseph Iron Works became the first incorporated village in St. Joseph County, even ahead of the slightly older settlement of South Bend four miles downriver. Residents elected five village trustees.

The first Methodist church building was constructed in the fall of 1836 on the 200 block of North Main Street.

Alanson Hurd's village covered approximately 40 square blocks south of the river, bisected by the Vistula Road, the region's major east-west route. It was one of four adjacent settlements under development in the mid-1830s. Joseph Battell and brothers James and Grove Lawrence began an ambitious plan for creating Indiana City on the north bank of the river. To its east lay Fowler's Addition, planned by George Fowler. South of the river and east of St. Joseph

Iron Works was Barbee Town, platted by William Barbee and Henry Harman. To avoid the confusion of numerous municipalities, the Indiana state legislature consolidated all four of these settlements into one “Mishawaka” on February 17, 1838.

In 1837, a dam across the river was built at the foot of Race Street, and a bridge was constructed to the west, connecting the settlements on the north and south sides of the river. Also, a road was built over the marsh that separated the town from the hills to the south. This gave Mishawaka industry access to heavily wooded southern Penn and Madison Townships. Merrifield later wrote, “The inexhaustible resources which this 'heavy timber' has afforded for lumber, timber, coal, firewood, etc. has been of the highest importance to our town. Without this much of our prosperity would have been an impossibility.”

Mishawaka’s population grew rapidly from just a hundred residents in 1834, mostly workers and their families, to a population of 862 by decade's end. Among the newcomers to Mishawaka was a group of 32 migrants who arrived from Brockport, New York, in 1837, known subsequently as the “Brockport colony.”

Alanson Hurd was attracted to Mishawaka by its suitability for iron manufacturing, and others followed with similar commercial motives. Travelers and settlers often also commented on the area's natural beauty, a feature sometimes overlooked today. Merrifield gave this glowing description in a series of nine newspaper articles in 1859, entitled “Mishawaka: Its Early History and Present Condition”:

The St. Joseph is one of the most beautiful rivers of our country...The country through which it passes is gently undulating and beautiful, being a mixture of prairie openings and heavy timber land, generally of the most fertile character. The purity of its waters, its uniform current, the innumerable springs which line its banks, and the picturesque beauty of the surrounding country all combine to produce a scene that excites the

imagination of the traveler.

Not everything was so appealing as this account suggests. Historian Ward Baker notes that the streets of Mishawaka in the 1850s were clouds of dust in the summer and quagmires of mud and water in winter. Until the Mishawaka Town Board passed an anti-hog ordinance in 1857, livestock roamed the streets freely.

Mishawaka grew steadily in the 1840s and had a population of 1,412 in 1850. A commercial district developed in the four blocks surrounding the intersection of Main and Second Streets, and numerous industries lined the north and south banks, drawing upon the river for power just as Hurd had expected. In addition to the St. Joseph Iron Company's operation, other manufacturers included a distillery, blast furnace and machine shop, sawmill, flour mill, and keelboat and steamboat builders.

The 1840s showed Mishawakans demonstrating their commitment to education. In the mid-1840s, a well-regarded school opened in a former lard oil factory, known as the Lard Oil Institute, but the town's growth necessitated even better educational facilities. To that end, the Mishawaka Academic and Normal Institute was built in 1845 at the south end of Main Street. The red brick, two-story schoolhouse had three first-floor classrooms. On the second floor were two recitation rooms and a large classroom that seated ninety. The Mishawaka Institute was mainly an elementary school with some advanced classes offered for older students. George Merrifield, himself a teacher in Mishawaka off-and-on for twenty years, proudly claimed, "It was at the time the best school-house in Northern Indiana." To serve children who lived north of the river, a small brick schoolhouse was constructed on the west side of Main Street, near present-day Broadway.

The faith life of Mishawaka residents was also nurtured in the 1840s. The Methodist and

Presbyterian congregations outgrew their old buildings and built new churches by the mid-1840s. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, which formed in 1837, opened its new church in 1843 at the southwest corner of Spring and First Streets. Catholic Mass was first celebrated monthly in Mishawaka in 1844 by priests from the University of Notre Dame. A former residence on Elm Street was purchased in 1848 and became Church of the Holy Angels. The First Christian Church of the Disciples of Christ met in a schoolhouse in Pleasant Valley northeast of town in 1840, moved to another school building on East Second Street, and built a church on West Second Street in 1850. The Evangelical Association began holding services in homes in the 1840s and built a small church on East Third Street in 1856. The German Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized in Mishawaka in 1847 and built a chapel near the intersection of Cedar and Broadway.

The early years of Mishawaka also saw several newspapers serve the community. The *Tocsin*, the town's first newspaper, was edited and published by Wilbur Storey. It was sold to George Merrifield and soon purchased from him and moved to South Bend. The *Bee*, founded in 1846, was published for two years. The *Free Democrat* was created in 1848 to support Martin Van Buren's presidential candidacy, and it ceased publication after the election. None of these early newspapers survived more than a year or two. More successful was the *Free Press*, founded by D.C. Ireland in 1853. A couple years later, he sold the paper to L.A. Elliott, who changed the name to the *Mishawaka Enterprise*. Now the oldest business in Mishawaka, the *Enterprise* survives into the twenty-first century as a weekly newspaper.

The original bridge across the St. Joseph River was damaged by ice and replaced with a 300'-long red covered bridge that would stand from 1847 until an iron bridge was built in 1874.

One of the most significant events in Mishawaka's history occurred on October 4, 1851, when the railroad first arrived in town. The Michigan Southern Railroad had extended west from

Toledo to White Pigeon. To bring the railroad into Indiana, Judge Thomas Stanfield incorporated the Portage Railroad, which connected White Pigeon to the state line. The railroad then built westward across Indiana as the Michigan Southern & Northern Indiana Railway. The first train to Mishawaka was comprised of three passenger coaches and a baggage car pulled by the locomotive *John Strycker*, which was only the size of a small tractor, fueled with wood, and braked manually. Bonfires blazed, cannons erupted, and the assembled crowd cheered mightily when that first train chugged into town. By the following summer, the Michigan Southern & Northern Indiana went to Chicago. Mishawakans were now on the railroad connecting Chicago to New York. A ribbon of iron tied Mishawaka to the rest of the world and would open markets for the town's fledgling industries, which were now less than 40 hours from East Coast cities.

Also in the 1850s, the Chicago and Grand Trunk Railway linked Mishawaka's north side to Chicago and Detroit.

The railroad brought great excitement and commercial potential to Mishawaka in the 1850s, but it also provided the city's greatest tragedy. On June 27, 1859, an eastbound train carrying approximately 150 persons was traveling from Chicago on the Michigan Southern & Northern Indiana and was due in Mishawaka at 11:27 p.m. Unbeknownst to the engineer, heavy rains had washed out an embankment and stone culvert at the Springbrook Ravine, just west of today's Ironwood Drive. The train, which included six passenger cars and the tender and baggage cars, was traveling 25-30 m.p.h. when it plunged into the 30-foot deep, 100-foot wide chasm. The engine and tender car plowed into the opposite bank, and all but one of the seven other cars were smashed to pieces. At least 39 people were killed, either by the crash or drowning in the raging waters, and 42 others were injured. Mishawakans were awakened about 12:30 a.m. by ringing church bells that alerted the community to bring aid. People from Mishawaka and South

Bend rushed to the scene, but swift, deep water and darkness thwarted rescue efforts. The injured were taken to nearby houses, and 32 dead were first laid out beside the track and later brought to the Mishawaka depot until the bodies could be claimed. Fifteen victims were initially buried in Mishawaka City Cemetery, and all but the Tidswell family-- a mother and her children-- were later exhumed and taken by their families. Railroad service resumed after a stronger bridge was built over the ravine.

Merrifield concluded his 1859 series for the *Enterprise* with two articles that inventory the town's attributes during the 1850s. Mishawaka's largest manufacturers in 1859 were a flour mill and the Milburn Wagon Company. Other businesses included St. Joseph Iron Company, two sawmills, a woolen factory, a plow manufacturer, a chair factory, and a brewery. The additional establishments Merrifield cataloged included several milliner and tailor shops.

During the 1850s, Mishawaka was the picture of prosperity and potential, an ideal business environment. The town's population grew to 1,688 in 1860, swelled by Irish and German immigrants and other migrants, mostly New Yorkers and New Englanders. George Merrifield notes Mishawaka was also "one of the most healthy localities in the country" with a mortality rate in 1858 of just one percent.

Though the growing sectional conflict over slavery seemed far removed from daily life in Mishawaka, residents participated in national events through newspapers and elections. The Republican Party, founded in response to the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, rapidly became the dominant political party in Mishawaka and St. Joseph County. Archibald Beal, who purchased the *Mishawaka Enterprise* in 1858, staunchly advocated preservation of the Union and supported Republican candidates such as Abraham Lincoln and Oliver P. Morton. During the 1860 campaign, Mishawaka Republicans helped elect Morton as governor and the party's entire state

ticket in October and delivered Indiana for Lincoln in the November election.

After news of Fort Sumter's fall reached Mishawaka on April 15, 1861, citizens voiced strong loyalty for the Union in a series of public meetings, a Soldiers Aid Society was organized, and 42 men volunteered for the Army, joining 55 volunteers from South Bend to form an infantry company. On April 19, over 300 Mishawakans accompanied the soldiers to South Bend, where they left by train for Indianapolis. Three days later, the men were sworn into federal service as Company I, 9th Indiana Regiment.

Mishawaka was firmly committed to preservation of the Union. A century later, Ward Baker wrote, "Never in the four long years of war that lay ahead did the people of Mishawaka turn away from the path they had chosen in November of 1860. For, having made their decision to support the policies of the new Republican Party, they supported the war to save the Union with their wealth, their blood, and their honor."

On May 29, the 9th Indiana became the first regiment to leave Indiana for the front. It arrived in Grafton, Virginia, on June 1 and was engaged in the surprise attack and pursuit of the rebels there on June 3. The regiment later participated in Gen. George McClellan's campaign in western Virginia. In early and mid-July, the 9th saw action at Laurel Hill, Belington, and Carrick's Ford before returning to Indianapolis and mustering out of service on July 29. The Mishawaka volunteers arrived home on July 31 and were welcomed with a large celebration and picnic a few days later.

The Union's humiliating defeat at the Battle of Bull Run in July 1861 was a reminder that the conflict was far from over and that more manpower, sacrifice, and expense would be needed to achieve victory.

In early August, James Houghton, a Mishawaka chair manufacturer, began recruiting men

for a three-year enlistment in a new 9th Indiana Regiment. His efforts and a large rally resulted in 70 men from Mishawaka and Penn Township enlisting in a new Company I, 9th Indiana Infantry, which mustered into service in September. Houghton was elected captain. The 9th Indiana was sent to Virginia, saw limited action that fall, and spent the winter at Cheat Mountain. The first Mishawaka soldier to die was Robert Boyd, who succumbed to pneumonia.

Meanwhile, another group of Mishawaka volunteers became Company F of the 48th Indiana Regiment, which mustered into service in December 1861. The 48th left for Kentucky in February 1862.

The 9th was sent to Tennessee and fought at Shiloh on April 7. Cpl. Jesse Miller and Pvt. Daniel Ungry were killed charging a Confederate artillery battery, and Capt. Houghton, wounded in the attack, died twelve hours later. They were Mishawaka's first combat deaths.

In the spring of 1862, the 48th helped seized Corinth, Mississippi, and the 9th drove against Chattanooga, Tennessee.

More Mishawaka men enlisted that summer in Company K, 87th Indiana Regiment, which resisted the invasion of Kentucky in the fall of 1862.

The 9th fought at Stones River, Tennessee, in December, and the 48th besieged Vicksburg in the spring and summer of 1863.

In September 1863, both the 9th and 87th participated in the Battle of Chickamauga. The 9th battled its way up Lookout Mountain in November, and the 87th did similarly at Missionary Ridge.

Mishawaka soldiers in the 9th, 48th, and 87th participated in Gen. William T. Sherman's Atlanta campaign in the spring of 1864.

Meanwhile, more Mishawaka volunteers formed Company H, 138th Indiana Regiment in May 1864, and they were sent to Tennessee before being discharged in the fall.

After Atlanta fell in September 1864, the 9th returned to Tennessee and saw action in the Battle of Nashville in December. The 48th and 87th marched to the sea with Sherman and served in the Carolinas in early 1865. After the war concluded, both regiments participated in the Grand Review in Washington, D.C., and were mustered out of service in June 1865. The 9th was stationed along the Texas-Mexico border before it returned to Indianapolis on October 19. These last Mishawaka soldiers came home on October 21.

To meet its manpower needs, the Union eventually resorted to drafting soldiers. Mishawaka, though, always provided enough volunteers to meet its draft quotas, and no Mishawaka or Penn Township man was drafted during the Civil War.

Of the 248 Mishawaka men who were three-year volunteers in the 9th, 48th, and 87th regiments, 14 were killed in action, and 48 died of wounds or disease. Two Mishawaka soldiers died at the Confederates' infamous Andersonville prison.

In addition to sending their loved ones off to military service, Mishawakans helped the Union war effort in other ways, and the town thrived during the war years. Milburn Wagon Company, one of Mishawaka's major industries, fulfilled a government contract for 600 wagons. Palmer & Worden's Woolen Company was working at full capacity, and area farmers saw higher prices and increased demand for their crops.

Mishawaka residents also participated in the contentious politics of the 1860s. In Indiana and elsewhere in the North, there was often much opposition to the war. Those in Mishawaka who held such a position, according to Janice Bridges, "were looked upon with great disfavor and sometimes treated rather unkindly." Mishawaka strongly supported President Lincoln and

the Republican Party during the war and for several years afterward. In the 1864 election, Mishawaka voted overwhelmingly for Lincoln and continuing the Union war effort. Republican Schuyler Colfax, a South Bend newspaper editor, represented the area in Congress and became Speaker of the House in 1863. Colfax was popular among Mishawakans, who proudly cheered his nomination as U.S. Grant's vice-presidential running-mate at the 1868 Republican National Convention and were thrilled by the ticket's election that fall.

Like other communities, Mishawaka had offered the sacrifices of its dead and wounded during the Civil War and endured the fears and uncertainties that were part of the conflict. Otherwise undamaged from the war, Mishawaka ended the 1860s with prosperity and a much larger population, growing from 1,488 residents in 1860 to 2,617 in 1870.

Population growth required that the town's educational facilities keep pace. By 1868, the Mishawaka Institute's building had so deteriorated that it was unsafe and had to be demolished. The next year, the town completed a replacement at the southwest corner of Hill and First Streets. The elementary grades were in four classrooms on the first floor, and the high school used three classrooms on the second floor, which also had the superintendent's office. The initially unfurnished third floor later became an auditorium named in honor of Joseph Whitson, the town trustee who oversaw the school's construction. The new building opened in December 1869 and was originally called "the Union School" because that year schools on both sides of the river were first unified under one superintendent. A local newspaper stated, "The building is unsurpassed by any of its kind in the State...The county may well consider this edifice one of its ornaments. We of Mishawaka are proud of it." Eventually, the building was simply known as "the High School." Though the name "Mishawaka High School" would be adopted a few years later and the school's location would change over the years, the unbroken lineage of this beloved

Mishawaka institution stretches from 1869 to the present.

Mishawaka citizens were almost exclusively white in the 1860s and 1870s, but a small black community was beginning to grow. At its center was the family of Elijah and Mary Ann Powell. Elijah was born in Owen County, Indiana, in 1841 and migrated to South Bend in 1858. His father, Farrow, became one of the wealthiest black men in the county and was a founding member of South Bend's black community. Elijah volunteered to join the 102nd U.S. Colored Regiment during the Civil War and saw action primarily in South Carolina during 1864 and 1865. Recognized for gallantry, Powell rose to the rank of sergeant before the war's end. Elijah married Mary Ann Hackley of Niles, and they moved to Mishawaka with their daughter Medora in 1868. Barbering was Elijah's skilled trade, and he began 38 years of service to his adopted hometown. Elijah and Mary Ann eventually had 14 children, and their family comprised much of Mishawaka's black population for several decades. The Powells earned the respect of their white neighbors and lived harmoniously in a largely white community, establishing a tradition of successful racial integration that continues into the twenty-first century.

Much of the country suffered during the depression that followed the Panic of 1873, but Mishawaka's economic challenges began sooner and unexpectedly when a horrible conflagration destroyed a large portion of the downtown on September 5, 1872.

Perfect conditions made a great fire in Mishawaka almost inevitable: wood-frame buildings, combustible material such as hay, open flames used for light and cooking, and inadequate firefighting capability. The massive fire that broke out at 7:45 p.m. was also fueled by hot, dry conditions and a strong wind. Southwest of Main and Second Streets stood the Presbyterian Church. Behind it was the parsonage's barn and, to the south, a barn owned by S.H. Stevens. The blaze likely began in the Stevens barn and was spread by high winds to the

parsonage's barn and then to the church itself. Fire devoured the block as residents sought vainly to douse the flames with the town's hand-pump engine. Wind-whipped sparks caused the fire to leap to the downtown's northwest and northeast blocks. One building after another ignited, filling the sky with acrid smoke and an orange-red glow. Brave citizens tried extinguishing the blaze, business owners threw goods into the street to avoid losing them in the flames, wagon drivers carted the items to safety or purloined them, and others just gawked as Mishawaka burned. After the smoke cleared, Mishawakans were stunned to see that 49 buildings had been lost. The southeast block was spared, but charred ruins were largely what remained of parts of the other blocks. Remarkably, there was no loss of life, and the factories along the north and south sides-- the town's livelihood-- were untouched.

The Great Mishawaka Fire of 1872 was far from a death blow to the town. Instead, encouraged by the optimism and energy of the *Mishawaka Enterprise's* new owner and publisher Edward Jernegan, Mishawaka quickly rebuilt. Just days after the fire, the town board passed an ordinance prohibiting construction of wooden buildings in downtown, except for temporary structures. Sounds of hammers and saws were soon heard amidst the ashes of what the fire had destroyed. Within a year, 29 brick structures had been built in the downtown, including the aptly named Phoenix Building, which still stands at the southwest corner of Lincolnway West and South Main Street, just feet from where the devastating fire began. Another of these post-fire buildings that survives today is the home of Doc Pierce's Restaurant at 118-120 North Main.

In the fire's aftermath, numerous manufacturers installed private water works or pumps to safeguard their buildings from a catastrophic blaze. In the spring of 1874, a water main was laid from the factories to the central business district, and a demonstration of the new water works blasted streams of water into the sky. Spectators cheered, a bonfire was lit, and a band

added to the celebratory atmosphere. The *Enterprise* proudly proclaimed, “We have the best water works (for the money) in the country.”

As Mishawaka was recovering from the disastrous fire, the town endured another terrible loss. When Mishawaka officials refused to build a spur line connecting the Milburn Wagon Company’s factory, located at Spring and Water Streets, to the railroad, George Milburn decided to move his business to Toledo, and production here ceased in late 1874.

The Milburn Wagon Company leaving was not the end of Mishawaka, as some had feared. In the spring of 1875, the *Mishawaka Enterprise* reported, “The removal of the Works has been so gradual that it has hardly been felt, and the actual depression which Mishawaka feels in their loss is nothing to what was predicted or expected.”

The growth of several other manufacturers in the 1870s helped cushion the blow from Milburn’s departure and ensured that Mishawaka would remain a major center of industry.

The town’s oldest business, St. Joseph Manufacturing Company, survived the exhaustion of local bog iron supplies in the 1850s and began specializing in steel plows and other agricultural implements. The firm changed its name from St. Joseph Iron Company in 1868 and, by 1874, was selling its products, which included the Scofield corn sheller and Mishawaka Tongueless Cultivator, to an international clientele. By 1880, St. Joseph Manufacturing added castings for columns and door plates to its product line, and it opened a new factory in 1882.

Another long-standing Mishawaka business, later known as Kamm & Schellinger Brewing Company, was active during the 1870s. The company's origins lie with John Wagner, who had operated a brewery and distillery in town since 1839. After his business burned in 1851, he relocated to North Center Street two years later. In 1870, Wagner sold his interest to Clemens Dick and Adolph Kamm, who formed the Dick & Kamm Brewery. A decade later, Dick sold his

share of the business to Kamm, who began a partnership with Nicholas Schellinger, Kamm's brother-in-law and fellow German immigrant. The Kamm & Schellinger Brewing Company was incorporated in 1887. Additions and modernizations to the complex began, including construction of a boiler house to supply electricity, an ice house, and a carriage house.

What became Mishawaka's most significant manufacturer also dates to the decade following the Civil War. In 1868, Martin Beiger and his father, Jacob, purchased Palmer & Worden's Woolen Mill and produced flannels and yarns. In 1874, the Beigers' partnership ended, and Mishawaka Woolen Company was incorporated with Martin Beiger serving as the first president. Adolphus Eberhart and his son James joined the firm in 1878, and the company took off in 1887 with the All-Knit Boot, which brought national sales and prominence. Putting a black band with a red ball at the top of each boot led to the company's "Red Ball" and "Ball-Band" trademarks, and Mishawakans began referring to the factory as "the Ball-Band."

The Perkins Wind Mill Company was another prominent enterprise founded during the post-Civil War era. Palmer "P.C." Perkins started the business as an ax factory and operated it as a sole proprietorship until he patented the Perkins Wind Mill and formed a partnership with his twin brother, Pardon, in 1869. The business produced edge tools, pumps, and water tanks but primarily manufactured wind mills. The Perkins Wind Mill & Ax Company was incorporated in 1873. Known for its wind mills' simple design and ease of maintenance, Perkins grew steadily, selling 1,500 windmills in 1883 and 5,000 annually by 1899. Perkins filled orders from throughout the United States and internationally. Its wind mills aided the settlement of the Great Plains by enabling water to be pumped from aquifers for irrigation and human consumption.

Wallace Dodge used his mechanical aptitude to open a sawmill and factory along the St. Joseph River in 1878 and quickly achieved success with the Magic Wagon Jack and other

specialty wood products. With business booming, Dodge moved to Union Street in 1879 and incorporated as Dodge Manufacturing Company the next year. Fire destroyed the factory in 1881, but Dodge quickly rebuilt and patented the Independence Wood Split Pulley in 1882. The company's next great accomplishment came in 1884 with the Dodge American System of power transmission, which used rope drives to connect machines with water or steam power sources. By 1890, Dodge Manufacturing was selling its line of power transmission equipment throughout the country.

Mishawaka industry grew and flourished in the 1870s, and so did the town's schools. In 1873, a board of education was formed separately from the town board. Mishawaka High School's first graduating class was in 1878, consisting of Belle Milburn and Allie VandenBosch. Mishawaka schools' enrollment reached 500 by 1880, and they enjoyed a strong reputation. In 1877, the *Enterprise* proudly proclaimed, "The grade is so high in the upper department that a scholar is fitted for immediate admission into any college or university in the land."

In April 1880, the first telephone wires were hung in Mishawaka, phones were received by subscribers, and a central exchange opened. The *Mishawaka Enterprise* described the first phone calls between Mishawaka and South Bend: "Conversation has been as readily transmitted between the two places as if they were in a stone's throw of each other, instead of four miles apart, and voices of acquaintances can be readily distinguished, demonstrating the perfect success of the marvelous little invention." In June 1883, Mishawaka, South Bend, Elkhart, Goshen, Niles, Michigan City, and LaPorte were connected to each other by phone service.

In December 1880, the people of Mishawaka received an extraordinary gift. Anna Battell deeded to the town the tract of land on the north bank of the St. Joseph River that the community had been informally using as a park for more than twenty years. Joseph Battell, the father of

Anna and Robbins, was the original owner of the property as part of Indiana City, the community that he and James and Grove Lawrence had planned. Robbins brought in a landscape architect the following summer to supervise the land's beautification. By the fall of 1881, a fence surrounded the park, a sidewalk was installed, a footbridge spanned the natural ravine that cut through the park, and stiles and hitching posts were placed throughout the park. The next spring, many trees were planted. The Battells funded the bridge, sidewalk, and the landscape architect and his laborers. Over 140 years later, Battell Park, augmented and adorned by subsequent generations, remains the crown jewel of Mishawaka's park system.

Appropriately, the park that had once been the setting for the celebration welcoming home Mishawaka's three-month enlistees in August 1861 would also become the location for the town's Civil War monument. On September 18, 1884, Mishawaka dedicated a spectacular monument to honor the soldiers and sailors from Penn Township who defended the Union. Efforts to create a monument moved slowly in the 1860s and 1870s. When the Houghton Post of the Grand Army of the Republic was established in 1883, plans quickly came to fruition. The Soldiers' Monument Association chose a 32-foot-high, white bronze monument, atop which was the statue of a soldier modeled off the likeness of John Boyd, a Mishawakan who fought in the war. Dedication of the Soldiers' Monument occurred during the Fifth Annual Reunion of the Soldiers and Sailors of Northern Indiana, hosted by the Houghton Post in Battell Park on September 17-18. Ten thousand visitors, including more than a thousand veterans, came to Mishawaka for the reunion, which included a tent camp in the park, a sham battle, and a banquet for 1,500. On the second day of the reunion, two thousand people gathered in front of the grandstand in Battell Park to witness the unveiling and dedication of the Soldiers' Monument. Music and prayers preceded a speech by Robert Montgomery, president of the monument

association. When he finished, the monument was unveiled, and 28 guns were fired. Col. David Ward of Chicago delivered an eloquent patriotic oration that moved many to tears. Afterward, the crowd expressed much praise for the monument, which endures to the present day.

Another long-standing feature of Mishawaka life had its genesis in the early 1880s. In July 1882, the St. Joseph County Orphans Home was opened in a large brick residence on Vistula Street (now Lincolnway West). Many local individuals and groups donated their time, supplies, and money to furnish the home and keep the orphans fed and clothed. Dr. John Borough of Mishawaka and Dr. Partridge of South Bend donated a year of their services to the home's "inmates," as they were called, and barber Elijah Powell gave the children free haircuts. Mrs. Julia Work, the home's director, created an inviting and orderly environment for her charges. By December 1882, 22 children resided at the home, ranging in age from six months to thirteen years. In 1907, a new home at the southwest corner of Logan and West Second Street was completed for what was then known as the Northern Indiana Aid Society. Though no longer an orphanage today, Oaklawn Center's Children's Campus continues to meet the emotional, educational, and developmental needs of children.

Mishawaka's biggest transportation advancement since the railroads first came to town occurred in October 1885. Construction of a streetcar line connecting Mishawaka to South Bend had begun in early September and was ready for the public to use a month later. On October 10, the three available streetcars carried 1,600 passengers, and sometimes 80 passengers crowded into cars that were built to carry half that number. Hourly runs were scheduled between Mishawaka and South Bend, bringing the two municipalities closer together than ever before.

In the summer of 1890, the horse-drawn streetcars were replaced by electric cars, which prompted the *Enterprise* to express its approval: "Everybody is in love with the electric cars, and

during hot weather excursion parties ride back and forth evenings between Mishawaka and South Bend for comfort. There is no dust, as with the horse cars, and the rapid motion makes a delightful breeze, equal to a sail in the water... The cars look very handsome at night, lighted by electricity." An 1890 aerial illustration shows streetcar lines along West Second, North Main, Bridge, and West Joseph Streets (Mishawaka Avenue).

A landmark event in the history of Mishawaka High School occurred on June 3, 1887. Medora Powell, the eldest of Elijah and Mary Ann Powell's children, became the school's first black graduate, one of ten members of the Class of 1887, and possibly the first black student to graduate from any high school in northern Indiana. Commencement exercises that year were held in Burt's Opera House, which stood on West Second Street. Medora's achievements as a student and distinction as the school's first black graduate made her the subject of great interest and pride by the community. Hundreds of people filled the opera house and listened as each graduate spoke. Powell's address was on the topic of "Self Made Men," and she asserted that self-educated men were not narrow-minded, giving examples of the late President James Garfield emerging from poverty and Frederick Douglass overcoming slavery to illustrate her point. The *Mishawaka Enterprise* noted that she was rewarded with round after round of applause at the conclusion of her speech. Medora Powell was the only black graduate of Mishawaka High until her brother Farrow Raymond in 1908. Long after she died in 1931, Medora remains a role model for racial integration and commitment to education for all Mishawakans.

Access to credit is vital to any community's growth and prosperity, and this resource is most often associated with banks and other financial institutions. To aid Mishawaka's development, Mishawaka Building and Loan Association was founded on June 7, 1889, during a meeting in John Tromp's drugstore on West Second Street. Mishawaka Building and Loan

operated out of Tromp's building for several years and was in various downtown sites before moving to 115 South Church Street in 1928. Later known as Mishawaka Federal Savings and then MFB Financial in 1996, MFB was Mishawaka's oldest financial institution when it merged with Muncie-based Mutual Bank in 2008.

Mishawaka's population had increased from 2,640 in 1880 to 3,371 in 1890, and this growth compelled the town to modernize in a variety of ways. In late 1890, Mishawaka Water Works Company was formed to build a water works for the town. It would rent the facility to Mishawaka and then deed the facility to the town after a certain amount of rent had been paid. The water works was completed in 1891 on North Church Street. The town's offices, including a meeting room for the town board, were located on the building's second floor.

Between 1891 and 1912, virtually every Mishawaka religious congregation built a new church building. Partly, this was done to replace aging facilities, but these new structures were also needed to accommodate Mishawaka's enormous population growth.

St. Joseph parish had come into existence in 1861 after Church of the Holy Angels' second building at Sarah and Grove Streets burned down. The congregation built a new church later that year at the southeast corner of Third and Spring Streets. Thirty years later, Father August Oechtering, the parish's long-time pastor, led the effort to construct a much larger church. In August 1891, approximately 10,000 people witnessed the ceremony in which a 4,500-pound limestone cornerstone was laid. The new Gothic church was dedicated on October 22, 1893, and included a 180' steeple, impressive stained-glass windows, and a larger organ rebuilt by parishioner Louis Van Dinter. St. Joseph Church retains its magnificence into the twenty-first century.

In 1895, the Christian Church also built a new facility at the southwest corner of Spring

and West Second Streets, half a block west of its former location. The new Gothic church had brick veneer, sandstone trim, and a 50' steeple towering over the main entrance. The First Christian Church remained at this site until it moved to East Third Street in 1971. Vogue Beauty College occupies the former church today.

The greatest cultural event of the 1890s was the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, held in Chicago's Jackson Park. Mishawaka, because of its prominent industries and proximity to Chicago, was especially caught up in the excitement of the world's fair. Dodge Manufacturing supplied the rope drive for the enormous Corliss engines in the fair's power plant and all the steel shafting equipment for the traveling cranes installed in the Machinery Hall. Dodge also exhibited its products in the Machinery Hall, including the Independence Wood Split Pulleys, iron pulleys, and a full complement of power transmission equipment. Mishawaka was also represented at the fair by Perkins Wind Mill Company and St. Joseph Manufacturing Company, which displayed its plows and other farm implements in the Agricultural Building. Another Mishawaka presence at the exposition came from the new St. Joseph Church. The stained-glass window depicting the Last Supper, crafted by Chicago's Wells Glass Company, was exhibited in the Manufactures and Liberal Arts Building. Only after the fair concluded in late October was the window brought to Mishawaka and finally installed in the church. Dodge Manufacturing and St. Joseph Manufacturing returned home with medals and ribbons for their products. Mishawakans also attended the fair in large numbers, traveling by the Lake Shore Railroad, Grand Trunk Railway, or steamer across the lake. After the fair ended, the Lake Shore reported that it had sold 1,674 tickets for its special trains to the fair. Perhaps two-thirds of Mishawaka's residents attended the World's Columbian Exposition.

The Spanish-American War of 1898 was an even more profound experience for

Americans and Mishawakans. For the first time since 1865, the United States was at war, fighting for the sacred principles of democracy and freedom from European imperialism.

As conditions worsened in Cuba, U.S.S. *Maine* exploded in Havana harbor, the military mobilized, and the public debated the merits of war. Mishawakans participated in this dialogue as they read articles and opposing editorials in each week's *Mishawaka Enterprise* and *Mishawaka Democrat*. After Congress declared war on Spain in April, Commodore George Dewey's squadron quickly sunk the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay, and the U.S. sent troops to defeat the defenders and occupy the Philippines. Preparations for liberating Cuba proceeded, and an invasion force gathered in Tampa, Florida. To show support for the war effort, the Mishawaka Woolen Company decorated its factory with red, white, and blue bunting and a large "Remember the *Maine*" sign. Pro-Cuban sentiments were expressed at Mishawaka High School's Commencement, and a patriotic concert was held at the Century Theater.

As the war's focus shifted to the Cuban port of Santiago, Mishawaka had at least two of its sons in harm's way. George Strong was a sailor on U.S.S. *New Orleans*, which was blockading the harbor. Lt. Willis Uline, a member of the Mishawaka High Class of 1884 and an 1890 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, was serving in the 12th Infantry Regiment. He participated in the July 1 attack on El Caney, a nearby Spanish stronghold, and was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action.

In February 1899, Mishawaka voters again took up the momentous question of whether to change their government from a town to a city. In 1871 and 1896, they had addressed this matter and decided to keep the town form of governance that dated to 1835. After much politicking and debating, the Mishawaka electorate voted by a 702-336 margin to adopt a city charter. The *Enterprise* memorably personified the election's result: "The third time proved the

charm, and at Monday's special election Mishawaka voted to cast off her outgrown and antiquated baby clothes and don the more appropriate and up-to-date habiliments of municipal manhood.”

The change to city government meant that the old town board would be replaced by a 10-member city council, two councilmen being elected from each of five newly drawn wards. The city charter also established an elected office of mayor. Mishawaka voters would elect the mayor, councilmen, clerk, treasurer, and marshal on May 2.

After Mishawakans went to the polls, Manuel Fisher and his fellow Republicans were celebrating an impressive triumph over E. Volney Bingham and the Democrats. Fisher defeated Bingham, 656-612, in the mayoral race, and the Republicans took the clerk, treasurer, and marshal contests. They also claimed six of the ten council seats.

With the campaign and election over, it was time to get down to the business of governing. First, though, an extraordinary moment in the history of Mishawaka politics took place in the city council chambers on May 8, 1899. In front of a hundred leading citizens, the town board met for the last time, conducted a few items of business, adjourned, and, after 64 years, ceased to exist. Newly elected city officials were sworn in, and then council president William Hosford escorted Manuel Fisher to the chair and presented him to the assemblage as the first mayor of Mishawaka. Fisher read his inaugural address, which began by reviewing the recent political tumult over adopting a city charter. He then offered his vision for Mishawaka's future, which included making public improvements that would enhance the city and passing ordinances that would promote morality. “So let us endeavor to keep pace or, better, to forge ahead with the true expansive spirit,” Fisher stated, “making public improvements, within our means, that will tend to make their streets more tractable; making such laws that the morals of

our city may be improved, and doing our utmost to impress upon all that laws of country, state, and city must be honored.”

City business during Fisher's three-year term largely involved managing finances and infrastructure, such as streets, sewers, the electric plant, and the water works. This task was made all the more difficult as Mishawaka's industries expanded and the city's population boomed. At nearly every council meeting, citizens were petitioning for extending streets, sewers, water lines, or streetlights.

Melville Mix defeated William Miller in the 1902 mayoral election, and Fisher's term ended in September 1902. The *South Bend Tribune* praised the “spirit of progress that has marked the city under the careful guidance of Mr. Fisher...Under him Mishawaka has made splendid progress and today occupies a higher position in every way than ever before.”

Continued enrollment growth in the 1890s led the Mishawaka school board to construct Bingham School at the northeast corner of Cedar and Third Streets in 1897. The school was named in honor of E. Volney Bingham, a Civil War veteran, attorney, and school board member. The two-story brick school had four classrooms, and a six-room addition was built in 1904.

The North Side School, located at the northeast corner of Battell and North Main Streets, was badly damaged by fire in 1899. Rather than rebuilding, the school board decided to construct a new eight-room school named in honor of the Battell family. Battell School opened in 1900.

Just before the century's end, another venerable Mishawaka institution came into being. The First National Bank of Mishawaka was chartered in January 1899. The bank was in one room at the southeast corner of Main and Second Streets, and Martin Beiger served as its first president. First National Bank endured until it was acquired by South Bend-based First Source Bank in 1982.

Expanding population and growing industry in Mishawaka and the surrounding area led to an insatiable demand for electric power. In January 1900, Martin Beiger, the president of Mishawaka Woolen Manufacturing Company, and James Du Shane, a patent attorney in South Bend, formed a company with Easterners who had invested in the Elkhart Electric Company to build a dam and power facility near where Twin Branch Creek divided into two streams and emptied into the St. Joseph River. The purpose of this new business, the St. Joseph & Elkhart Power Company, was to produce electricity for Mishawaka, South Bend, and Elkhart. The dam would supply the area's "commercial or manufacturing purposes. Thus will be furnished a cheap and convenient power which will prove of vast benefit to this great and constantly growing industrial center of the St. Joseph Valley," wrote the *Mishawaka Enterprise*. Construction began in July 1901 and was finished by late October 1903. The dam was 400' long and had a height of 21' from the water level above the dam to the water level at the base of the dam. At the south end of the dam was a powerhouse that was 176' long and 112' wide. Initially, it included four turbines. By November, the water had risen nearly to the top of the dam and would soon start spilling over. Machinery would then finally begin generating electricity. That milestone occurred on December 16. The next day's *South Bend Tribune* featured a short article with the extraordinary headline, "Mishawaka Electricity Lights Elkhart," and stated, "Elkhart was lighted last night by electricity generated at the St. Joseph & Elkhart Power company's station at the Hen Island dam." The hydro plant became the major source of electricity for Mishawaka and the surrounding area. In 1907, it became part of the Indiana and Michigan Electric Company, and the name "Hen Island Dam" was replaced with "Twin Branch Dam" to fit in with the nearby residential development in Mishawaka's east end.

In the first years of the twentieth century, Mishawaka continued to modernize its

government and municipal services. Though it needed a new City Hall and regular police and fire departments, Mishawaka was unable to afford them because of a law prohibiting the bonding of city property to pay for such improvements. To solve the problem, Mayor Mix, Martin Beiger, and other civic leaders formed the Mishawaka Public Utilities Company to assume the city's debt and issue bonds for the necessary enhancements. The municipal water and electric plants would be owned by the utility and leased to the city. This agreement enabled the city to acquire regular police and fire departments, and a new City Hall at the northeast corner of First and Church Streets opened in October 1904.

Efforts to update Mishawaka's municipal services and facilities were needed to accommodate an unprecedented population boom. During the 1890s, the population surged from 3,371 to 5,560, and this rate of growth would soon be far surpassed as the city reached a population of 11,886 by 1910, a 113.8% increase in just a decade's time.

Some of this population growth was by natural increase, but it also was the result of immigration and annexation.

An influx of Belgian immigrants from East and West Flanders spread "Belgian Town" south and west into mostly vacant land bounded by Fourth, Thirteenth, Spring, and Logan Streets. The Belgian population in Mishawaka was 568 in 1901 and grew substantially in the years before World War I. This period of immigration was soon followed by a Belgian baby boom of first-generation Americans who had Belgian parents. Over 2,500 Belgians-- immigrants and their children-- resided in the West End by 1930.

The Belgians formed an urban ethnic enclave that retained elements of the old country in an American setting. Flemish was commonly spoken in West End homes and in the neighborhood's many Belgian-owned businesses. The Belgians also were soon able to practice

their Catholic faith in their own church. In 1903, the bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne granted permission for the Belgians to create their own parish, and he assigned a Flemish priest as the first pastor of St. Bavo Church. A wood-frame building was erected at the northwest corner of West and Eighth Streets to serve as a temporary church and school. The cornerstone for the permanent church was laid in May 1904, and St. Bavo Church was dedicated on January 1, 1905.

In the first decade of the twentieth century, Mishawaka's population also grew by annexing land. In January 1905, Mishawaka incorporated 1,353 acres of new territory into the city. In what historian Susanna Ernst refers to as the "Great Annexation," Mishawaka added land west of Logan Street and south of the railroad tracks, a neighborhood later known informally as "Hooligan Heights." For the first time, Mishawaka's western border touched South Bend's eastern boundary. Ernst notes that other annexed land included property that would later become Merrifield Park, Mishawaka High School, Fairview Cemetery, and parts of the West End. Farmers and other property owners objected to this annexation and even took their case to the Indiana Supreme Court, but the annexation's boundaries were confirmed by 1908. While some of this property was vacant land for which annexation would facilitate development, other property had people already living there, and they added to Mishawaka's population total in the 1910 census.

Its hunger for more land not satiated, the Mishawaka City Council also annexed River Park, northwest of the river and Logan Street, in August 1910. Indiana law permitted the annexation but also gave the citizens of River Park the right to remonstrate if enough of them objected to the annexation. River Park exercised this option, the annexation was ultimately reversed, and River Park later became part of South Bend.

This period of growth saw improvements in municipal infrastructure and new school and church buildings.

Mishawaka built or replaced three bridges between 1902 and 1913. The Cedar Street Bridge opened in 1904, a new concrete Main Street Bridge was completed in 1908, and the Logan Street Bridge was built in 1902. Made of wood, it lasted only a few years and was closed in 1908. The Logan Street Bridge partially collapsed in 1911 and was replaced with a concrete bridge in 1913.

Several other church congregations outgrew their buildings and replaced them with larger, more impressive structures. A new St. Peter's Lutheran Church, school hall, and parsonage were constructed in 1902 south of the intersection of Church and Fourth Streets. The English Lutheran Church dedicated its new church at the southwest corner of Main and Seventh Streets in 1903. A new Free Methodist Church, located at the northeast corner of East Grove and Chestnut Streets, was completed that same year. In 1907, St. Paul's Episcopal Church replaced its building on North Spring Street, the city's oldest church, with a new church at the northeast corner of Cedar and East Second Streets. The First Presbyterian Church, too, built a magnificent new church at the southeast corner of Union and East Second Streets. The building was dedicated in 1911 and featured Georgian and Neo-Classical elements and a steeple inspired by England's greatest architect, Sir Christopher Wren. The Methodist Episcopal Church replaced its West Second Street building with one of Mishawaka's great landmarks, paid for entirely by the children of Adolphus and Sarah Eberhart as a memorial to their parents. The Gothic church, located at the southeast corner of Third and Church Streets, was covered in Bedford limestone and featured a four-pinnacle steeple rising 119' above the busy streets of Mishawaka.

A population that more than doubled in a decade's time also resulted in several new

school buildings. St. Joseph School opened its new building at the southeast corner of Spring and Third Streets in 1903. To accommodate growth on both the north and south sides of town, Mishawaka schools built an annex for Battell School and opened South Side School at the northwest corner of Mill and Eighth Streets, both in 1908. The original South Side had four primary-only classrooms, and a six-room addition was put on in 1913. Mishawaka High's 1869 building had become inadequate for the community's needs, so a new school was constructed in 1910 along West Second Street. Built in Prairie style, it featured classrooms, an auditorium on the third floor, and a gymnasium, industrial arts areas, and domestic science labs in the basement. The adjacent old building became Main School and was used for younger students.

In 1910, Mishawaka also finally acquired its own hospital. St. Joseph Hospital had its origins in St. Agnes Convent, which stood near the southeast corner of Fourth and Spring Streets. Three sisters from the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ came to Mishawaka in 1878 to minister to the sick, sometimes having patients recuperate in the convent but more often visiting the ill in their homes. Three decades later, though, Mishawaka still did not have a hospital, and seriously ill patients needed to be transported to South Bend. After Father Louis Moench of St. Joseph Church received the bishop's approval to build a hospital, local businesses and citizens contributed large sums and their labor to the project. Construction began in June 1909 on the old convent site, and the three-story hospital with forty beds opened on April 19, 1910. The Poor Handmaids provided the nurses and lived in a new convent just to the south.

Mishawaka's churches, schools, and hospital were paid for, ultimately, by Mishawaka industry. Property taxes from factories and the houses of laborers and management alike funded schools, parks, and municipal buildings. Workers and owners voluntarily devoted a share of their income to the construction and upkeep of Mishawaka churches, shown most directly by the

Eberhart family, whose fortune had come largely through Ball-Band. Similar generosity had paid for St. Joseph Hospital.

Mishawaka manufacturing continued to grow and innovate after the turn of the century. One article at the time boasted that Mishawaka had the largest wind mill factory in the world (Perkins), the largest woolen boot factory in the world (Ball-Band), and the largest factory in the world devoted exclusively to power transmission equipment (Dodge)!

Mishawaka Woolen had opened its own rubber footwear factory in 1898. Martin Beiger died in 1903, and the large national conglomerate U.S. Rubber acquired ownership of the plant, which was generally left to operate under local control.

The Simplex Motor Car Company began production on South Main Street in 1905. The company's growth soon created the need for a larger factory, which was built on South Byrkit Avenue in 1907. Simplex cars were technological innovators, featuring a two-stroke engine, as opposed to four-- the only such auto engine being built at the time. The company flourished in 1909, producing an average of one hand-assembled luxury car per day, and opened dealerships in major cities. Prices for Amplex roadsters and touring cars were around \$4,300, and their seven-passenger limousine cost \$5,650. In comparison, Henry Ford's Model T, later sold for under \$400.

Simplex began an exciting new venture in 1909: road racing. After losing a trademark dispute, the company contracted its "American Simplex" brand to form "Amplex." Amplex achieved success at prestigious races, and its cars were among the fastest in the world. When the Indianapolis Motor Speedway announced plans for a 500-mile International Sweepstakes race in 1911, Amplex jumped at the chance to compete. Two Amplex cars qualified for the race. One crashed on the thirteenth lap, killing the riding mechanic, and the other finished eighth. Amplex

never returned to the Brickyard.

In addition to Ball-Band, the Rubber Regenerating Company helped Mishawaka become a major center for rubber and footwear production. The “Rubber Re” plant, built in 1908-09 at the head of Division Street (today Central Park), originated from the increased global need for rubber. The auto's rising popularity required so much rubber that natural supplies were insufficient, so the industry turned to used and scrap rubber to help meet demand. In 1904, Raymond Beach Price patented the alkali process for reclaiming scrap rubber. He founded the Rubber Regenerating Company of Illinois in 1906 and moved his business to Mishawaka in 1908. The massive factory Price constructed was 700' long and 275' wide. The buildings sat astride the old north mill race and sprawled diagonally across the flat area between the river and the bluffs to the north and east. Mishawaka's Rubber Re was the largest rubber regenerating factory in the world. It was ideally located to utilize the enormous amounts of scrap rubber available at nearby Ball-Band and to feed that plant's voracious appetite for reconditioned rubber. In 1912, R.B. Price sold the Rubber Regenerating Company and its sister factory in Manchester, England, to U.S. Rubber, which was also the parent company of Ball-Band.

Along with developments in industry and construction of numerous churches and schools, the opening decade of the twentieth century saw two of the most exciting days in Mishawaka history.

The highlight of two frenzied weeks of political activity in Mishawaka before the 1908 general election was Vice President Charles Fairbanks's visit on October 28, 1908. A committee of leading Republicans met Fairbanks in Elkhart and escorted him to Mishawaka in a caravan of automobiles, arriving after 5 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, where he was the honored guest at the Bishop Knickerbacker Guild supper. Fairbanks had dinner, spoke briefly to the 300

people crammed into the church undercroft, and shook hands with well-wishers in the rectory until 7 p.m. The vice president then rode to Mayor Charles Frank's residence at 813 West Second Street, where he addressed a crowd of over a thousand gathered outside. About 7:30 p.m., Fairbanks and a procession of touring cars joined a massive parade that went east on Second Street, north on Main Street across the river to Joseph Street, and back to the intersection of Main and Second. As a thousand supporters waited for the vice president inside the Century Theater, he spoke for 15-20 minutes to the five thousand people gathered in the street. Fairbanks then went into the theater, received a rousing ovation, and addressed the convocation of Republican enthusiasts for over an hour. The vice president complimented Mishawakans on their city's growth, touted his party's beliefs and accomplishments, endorsed Republican candidates, and urged everyone to go to the polls, regardless of which candidate they voted for. The four crowded hours Fairbanks spent in Mishawaka were the most thrilling evening in the city's history.

Less than nine months later, Mishawaka's business and municipal leaders hosted a Historical Pageant and Fourth of July Celebration that was the city's most exciting day ever. The impetus for staging the daylong series of events came from completion of the Hotel Mishawaka at the southeast corner of Third and Main Streets, but it also served as a homecoming that encouraged the return of former residents who had moved away. Ten thousand people began the day by watching a solemn Indian canoe procession that included Frederick Eberhart and Jennie Skelly playing Chief Elkhart and Princess Mishawaka. The delegation met city officials at the Cedar Street Bridge and then joined a massive parade, consisting of 106 floats and several bands, that was seen by more than 20,000 spectators. At noon, Princess Mishawaka, Chief Elkhart, and their Indian entourage came to the front steps of the Hotel Mishawaka. The princess raised the

city flag next to the American flag, officially opening the hotel. Throughout the afternoon, thousands of people explored the hotel, and almost 600 had lunch or dinner. The day culminated at 8 p.m. when the city's new electric streetlights were turned on for the first time. The Hotel Mishawaka's veranda was again the center of attention as a crowd of five thousand jammed Main and nearby streets. Following Mayor Frank's remarks, Princess Mishawaka turned a switch that illuminated streets on both sides of the river. The crowd roared its approval, and a band played "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Mishawaka's extraordinary population growth also led to a new U.S. Post Office building at the northeast corner of Church and Third Streets. When the cornerstone was laid in May 1914 for the Neo-Classical building, festivities included a mile-long parade viewed by 4-5,000 spectators. The building was used as a post office until 1969 and is today part of the Mishawaka-Penn-Harris Public Library.

A new home for the Mishawaka Public Library was another improvement in the city's quality of life. The public library, founded in 1907, had been limited to a few thousand volumes in just one room of City Hall. At the time, steel baron and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie was giving away millions from his fortune for public library buildings around the world. Local citizens asked Carnegie to fund a new library for Mishawaka. Businessman Frederick Eberhart donated land at the southeast corner of Hill and First Streets. Construction began in 1915, and the new library building opened in May 1916. Unlike the Classical, boxlike Carnegie libraries in other towns, architect A.F. Wickes chose a more ornate style for Mishawaka's building, including elaborate terra-cotta above the front door and curving Flemish-gabled walls at each end of the building. When the library first opened, the main floor featured an adult reading area on the north end and a children's area on the south end, near a large fireplace. The basement included a lecture

room and a staff work room. The building was used for the public library until 1969 and is today a restaurant and events facility.

Growth on the north side led to important developments for several Mishawaka church congregations at this time.

In 1915, Emmanuel Baptist Church dedicated their new building at the northeast corner of Ann and Grove Streets.

For several years, Catholics north of the river had been hoping to establish a new parish. To accomplish this, Rev. John Bleckmann arrived in July 1915 and purchased the old Baptist Church on West Mishawaka Avenue for a temporary St. Monica Church. A new building at the southeast corner of Ann and Grove Streets was completed in 1917. A four-room school occupied the first floor, and Mass was held in the basement chapel.

The Baptists, meanwhile, began work on their new church nearby at the southeast corner of Lawrence and North Main. Construction started in 1916, and services were temporarily held in the basement until the building was completed in 1919.

St. Michael's Greek Catholic Church dedicated its new building on East Lawrence Street in 1916.

When World War I began in August 1914, Mishawakans were mostly spectators, reading about the conflict in newspapers but also worrying about family members in Europe who were near the fighting. After the United States declared war on April 6, 1917, Mishawakans participated in the Great War as soldiers, sailors, industrial workers, and patriotic citizens.

Long before the United States entered the war, some Mishawakans were already in harm's way. The first Mishawaka men to leave for the war were fifteen Belgian reservists who had been recalled to resist Germany's invasion of their fatherland. They left on September 20,

1914, bidden farewell by hundreds at the railroad depot. Jacques Vander Haden and Edward Roegiers, two Belgian soldiers, were the first Mishawakans killed in World War I.

After Congress declared war, other Mishawaka men answered Uncle Sam's call by volunteering for the Army and Navy. The post office served as an enlistment center, and 32 men volunteered on a single day. Twenty-five Army recruits were given a public send-off on May 1 as they paraded through the streets of downtown to the depot. On May 10, an even larger celebration saw 76 volunteers march off to war while thousands cheered them on.

By war's end, over a thousand Mishawakans had served in the armed forces. Thirty-three Mishawaka men died in World War I, some from disease or accident, others killed in action or from wounds received in combat.

The city's industries also contributed to victory. Dodge Manufacturing produced marine engines and rammers for heavy artillery. Its Indestructo Trunk factory made DeHaviland 4 aircraft, which were used for reconnaissance, combat, and bombing. Mishawaka Woolen also saw a wartime increase in demand for its footwear and undertook a plant expansion.

Mishawaka citizens supported the war effort by preparing Christmas boxes for their servicemen, volunteering at the Red Cross to make surgical dressings and prepare clothing to send to soldiers, and by purchasing Liberty Loan savings bonds. Mishawakans on the home front also endured wartime shortages of food and coal.

When the armistice was signed on November 11, thousands of Mishawaka residents took to the streets, factory whistles blew, cannon and small arms were fired, fireworks exploded, several parades formed, and the Belgian and Italian communities burned the German Kaiser in effigy.

Even during the war, progress in Mishawaka continued. St. Joseph Hospital had already

outgrown its 1910 building, and an addition was constructed in 1918 that more than doubled the facility's size. The addition was largely funded by an anonymous donor, and only years later was it revealed that Emmett Saunders was the source of this beneficence. The new wing was ready for occupancy in January 1919. Later that year, Sister Columba began the St. Joseph Training School for Nurses. The first class of nurses graduated from the program in 1922.

In the fall of 1918, an epidemic of Spanish influenza spread throughout the country. In mid-October until November 15, public gatherings in Mishawaka were prohibited, and churches and schools were closed. At one time, the city had more than 300 flu cases, and approximately 25 Mishawakans died because of the epidemic.

The Roaring Twenties gave fans of Mishawaka High School plenty to cheer about. The first significant athletic achievement in Mishawaka history came in the fall of 1920 as the football team claimed the school's first state championship in any sport. Mishawaka defeated Warsaw, Gary Emerson, Benton Harbor, Dowagiac, Michigan City, and Elkhart before posting a scoreless tie in a rematch with Elkhart. This was all prelude to the November 20 showdown with archrival South Bend High, which the Maroons had never beaten in nine previous attempts. The Orange and Blue were undefeated against Indiana teams in 1920; as a result, Mishawaka and South Bend each had a claim to the mythical state title, making their clash at Springbrook Park, just west of the city limits, the *de facto* state championship game. The Maroon and White scored their first-ever points against the Orange and Blue when Leroy Brady pushed across the goal line and Ed Lambiotte kicked the point-after. Wilbert Weiss booted a field goal to give Mishawaka a 10-0 lead before the end of the first quarter. The Benders put six points on the board early in the fourth period. On the ensuing kick-off, South Bend appeared to recover a Maroon and White fumble on the Mishawaka 20-yard line, but the referee ruled the receiver down. South Bend

rooters were incensed, and fights soon broke out among the crowd. The Maroon and White failed to advance the ball, and South Bend took over possession. With the Orange and Blue driving at the game's end, Herbert Freehauf intercepted a Bender pass and Mishawaka emerged victorious. On Thanksgiving Day, the Maroon and White traveled to Bryan, Ohio, where they remained undefeated after a 7-7 tie. Other mythical state titles for Mishawaka High followed in 1925, 1926, 1935, and 1950.

During the 1920s, Mishawaka was the fastest growing city in Indiana, almost doubling its population yet again from 15,195 in 1920 to 28,630 a decade later. To accommodate this growth, Mishawaka schools carried out several construction projects.

A third building was added to the Battell School campus in 1921. The new wing faced Main Street and included a gymnasium, auditorium, and more classrooms, which were used by junior high students. Built in the Collegiate Gothic Style, the building's impressive façade included castellated battlements and two stately towers.

A new Mishawaka High replaced the old high school in the fall of 1924. School superintendent P.C. Emmons wanted a new high school constructed in the farmland along Lincolnway East, more than a mile from downtown. The east side location became controversial because of the distance, and a petition drive with hundreds of signatures unsuccessfully sought to block the project. Emmons's vision was soon vindicated as new homes quickly surrounded the school. Described by one observer as an "architectural masterpiece," the building's iconic feature was its clocktower. Below, an impressive front courtyard was formed by the three-story main section of the building and two wings: an auditorium to the west and a gymnasium to the east. By the fall of 1926, a football field north of the school building was ready for the gridgers to use.

Other school projects were completed throughout the city. In 1928, Beiger School opened

a two-story building at the southeast corner of Virgil Street and Lincolnway East. Further east, Twin Branch School, which was constructed in 1919 and added onto in 1920, began as a Penn Township school and was purchased by Mishawaka schools after the city annexed that area in 1927. Finally, LaSalle School, located at the southwest corner of Jackson Street and Milburn Boulevard, started as a two-room portable building in 1922, and two more classrooms were added the next year. In 1926, a two-story brick building, including a gymnasium/auditorium, was completed to meet the needs of the city's growing southwest end.

Downtown Mishawaka also saw the construction of landmark buildings in the mid-1920s.

In March 1925, First National Bank opened an impressive new edifice at the southeast corner of Main and Lincolnway East. With a mix of Georgian and Neo-Classical elements, the building became one of the anchors and landmarks of downtown Mishawaka.

A block and a half to the north, the Tivoli Theater was intended to be a state-of-the-art, majestic theater for vaudeville and motion pictures. Construction began in 1924, and the Tivoli celebrated its opening night on May 21, 1925. The Tivoli inspired awe even before patrons entered the doors. Its marquee extended the width of the main entrance and over the sidewalk. A large arched window above the marquee was surrounded by lights, and the center of the window held a stained-glass inset with the letter *T*. Terra-cotta eagles, crests, and garlands decorated the facade. Inside, the Tivoli was even more spectacular. The main floor had 950 seats, and the balcony seated 450 more. The proscenium arch, ceiling, and walls were decorated with ornate plaster moldings painted to look like real flowers and leaves. A silver dome cast indirect light over the whole theater, and a large chandelier hung from the dome. A mighty concert organ provided musical accompaniment during the silent-movie era.

Mishawaka industry continued its growth and innovation during the 1920s and was the

lifeblood of the community's vitality.

Amplex ceased auto production in 1915, and its old factory on South Byrkit took on new life in 1926 as the home of American Foundry Equipment Company. After World War I, American Foundry Equipment Company, which manufactured a variety of sandblasting, surface-cleaning, mold-making, and other foundry-related machines, moved its corporate offices to New York City and its manufacturing operation to Chicago. The arrangement proved unwieldy, so the corporation decided to consolidate all operations in Mishawaka. Over the years, additions were made to the east and south of the original building, and the company, later called Wheelabrator, became one of Mishawaka's biggest employers.

In the aftermath of World War I, Dodge Manufacturing had heavy debts. To address this, the company liquidated some of its subsidiaries and adjusted Dodge's products to reflect market demand. Dodge engineers modernized the product line, introducing the first mounted anti-friction bearing in 1924 and another type of bearing in 1927. A company history explains, "Both used Timken tapered roller bearings. Dodge was the first to market Timken bearing equipped pillow blocks, and these mounted bearings established Dodge among the leaders in the industry."

In the decades before Prohibition, Kamm & Schellinger was highly successful, and the brewery was producing 75,000 barrels of beer annually by 1918. Indiana's anti-liquor law and the federal Prohibition amendment forced Kamm & Schellinger to cease their alcohol production and focus instead on near-beer with less than .5% alcohol, soda pop, distilled water, and ice sales. In May 1920, Kamm & Schellinger introduced a nonalcoholic cereal beverage called The Arrow with the slogan "It Always Hits the Spot." The company made a variety of flavored soft drinks, including Julade, an orange drink, and Emral, a mint-julep beverage.

This manufacturing and a booming population required ever more electricity. The Twin

Branch dam was renovated in 1922, and two more turbines were added. A new concrete structure above the dam and tainter gates enabled it to control the height of the river. Even the expanded hydro facility would not satisfy the Mishawaka area's power needs, which prompted the Indiana and Michigan Electric Company to construct a coal-fired, steam plant just north of the Twin Branch Dam. In the spring of 1925, the first two generating units at the Twin Branch Power Plant became operational. To supply coal to the plant, the Twin Branch Railroad brought coal cars from the Elkhart & Western Railroad, which connected to the New York Central system. Cars were put in a rotary car dumper, which flipped a car upside down to empty its load. Coal was then brought into the plant, beginning a complicated process of converting the fuel into steam that generated enormous amount of power.

As a result of the Twin Branch Dam and the Twin Branch Power Plant, Mishawaka became the region's electricity producer and even adopted the sobriquet of "The Power City" in the 1920s. Twin Branch brought power not just to local customers in Indiana and Michigan. I and M's connection to the Calumet Gas and Electric Company meant that electricity from Mishawaka could, if needed, supply the Commonwealth Edison Company of Chicago. The Twin Branch steam plant successfully sent electricity to Boston and proved capable of supplying customers in Florida.

Construction of the majestic, four-span Mishawaka Avenue Bridge was completed in 1926. The bridge facilitated access to the northeast side of Mishawaka and encouraged residential development north and east of Mishawaka High School.

During the 1920s, the growth of a large Italian population added to Mishawaka's ethnic diversity. The city had just eight Italians in 1900, but this number grew to 993 by 1930, approximately half of whom were foreign-born and half were American-born children of Italian

parents. The Italians lived in two distinct communities: one on the south side (in the area bounded by the railroad tracks, Thirteenth, Spring, and Union Streets) and the other on the north side (in the neighborhood east of Main and north of Mishawaka Avenue). These ethnic enclaves included numerous Italian-owned businesses, like the Flemish-Americans had in Belgiantown. The social center for the southside Italians was the DeAmicis Mutual Aid Society, founded in 1917. The DeAmicis built a new social hall at the northwest corner of Spring and Eleventh Streets in 1928, and the club continues to use this building today. The heart of the northside Italian community was the DiLoreto Society on Division Street, and it, too, is alive and well a century later.

As Italian Catholics filled the north side in the 1920s, the need for a much larger church building for St. Monica parish became apparent. The Italian Romanesque design of the third St. Monica Church, built just to the south of the 1917 church/school and dedicated in 1927, shows the growing Italian community's influence. A 103' tower crowned the brick building, and Bedford limestone created an ornate main entrance. The interior of the church featured imported Italian marble altars, a barrel-vaulted ceiling, Corinthian columns, extensive religious statuary, and the most stained-glass windows of any church in town. Vibrant in morning or late afternoon sunlight, the 16 large upper-level windows showed the Mysteries of the Holy Rosary, and windows along the side-aisles depicted angels. A large rose window in the rear of the choir loft was 12' in diameter and imported from Germany. St. Monica is the largest of Mishawaka's historic churches, seating 800 persons.

In the worst year of the Great Depression, Mishawakans celebrated the city's hundredth anniversary with Centennial Week from May 15-21, 1932. The exciting week began with an interfaith religious service in Battell Park on Sunday afternoon. During the week, carnival rides

and attractions were available on Main Street downtown, and high-dive and high-wire performers amazed spectators. On Monday evening, a thousand people participated in the Centennial Costume Ball, which included naming Mishawaka High student Virginia Ainlay as the winner of the Princess Mishawaka contest. Tuesday directed attention to the city's schools, which all held open houses, and Mishawaka High hosted a concert, style show, and dramatic performance. On Wednesday, the all-city junior high track meet and Pow-wow and Bow-wow Parade, featuring children and their pets, were the highlights. Thursday included a civic luncheon at the Hotel Mishawaka, and a thousand people came to Lincoln Park for the dedication of a large boulder and bronze plaque honoring legendary Princess Mishawaka and her supposed grave site. That evening, a crowd of 6-10,000 were in Lincoln Park to watch the centennial historical pageant, which told the story of Princess Mishawaka and early white settlement in Mishawaka. Friday's program had an ethnic flavor, including Belgian and Italian folk dancing and musical groups and demonstrations of Belgian bowling and archery. On Saturday afternoon, a massive street parade with 18 musical groups and over 100 floats was enjoyed by 25,000 people. Centennial Week concluded on Saturday evening with another performance of the historical pageant. The Mishawaka Chamber of Commerce estimated that 100,000 visitors came to Mishawaka for the centennial celebration, which it referred to as "the outstanding week of Mishawaka's history." Centennial Week helped local merchants and promoted community pride and spirit during a time of economic distress.

In 1933, the national unemployment rate reached an astounding 24.9%. Though Mishawaka residents, too, suffered from high levels of joblessness, the city was fortunate that its most important manufacturers-- Mishawaka Rubber & Woolen, Dodge Manufacturing, American Foundry Equipment, and Kamm & Schellinger-- all would survive the Great Depression.

When President Franklin Roosevelt took office in March 1933, he quickly began a series of relief and recovery programs aimed at helping the unemployed, priming the nation's economic pump by increasing consumer spending, restoring hope, and building infrastructure in both rural and urban areas. Over the next several years, the programs of the first and second New Deals would include the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (F.E.R.A.), Civil Works Administration (C.W.A.), the Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.), the Public Works Administration (P.W.A.), the National Youth Administration (N.Y.A.), and others.

The New Deal's presence was felt profoundly in Mishawaka during the 1930s, and its legacy can still be seen around the city ninety years later. Among the earliest of these projects was Rose Park at the southwest corner of West and Fifteenth Streets. In 1934, the C.W.A. and F.E.R.A. paid laborers to develop the park, which included softball diamonds, playground equipment, and a comfort station. In 1935, Mishawaka schools partnered with the P.W.A. to construct Mary Phillips School at the northwest corner of Benton and West Lawrence Streets. The two-story building was designed in Colonial Revival style and opened in the fall of 1936.

The Works Progress Administration, created in 1935, used federal funds to cover labor costs, providing temporary, part-time jobs that pumped money into the economy and improved the hopes, self-esteem, and job skills of the unemployed. Local governments covered the cost of materials, such as brick, stone, and concrete. Mishawaka's municipal government quickly developed an outstanding relationship with the W.P.A., which built streets, parks and recreation facilities, and utilities infrastructure, such as sewers, throughout the city in the latter 1930s. The W.P.A.'s handiwork can still be seen today in the elaborate Battell Park rock garden, stonework and drainage systems in the Eberhart-Petro Golf Course, an addition to the Carnegie library on Hill Street, and the Mishawaka Reservoir Caretaker's Residence. The W.P.A. also cleared

remnants of the massive Rubber Regenerating Company plant, which closed in 1930, so the site could be redeveloped into Central Park. Mishawaka schools worked with the W.P.A. to build concrete bleachers for Mishawaka High's football field. The west bleachers were completed in 1938, and similar bleachers on the east side of the field were constructed the next year. When the 8,000-seat stadium opened in the fall of 1939, it was one of the finest high school football facilities in the Midwest. Renamed Steele Stadium in 1980, it is still the home of the Cavemen football and track teams.

In 1941, the N.Y.A. built Castle Manor at the far north end of Merrifield Park. Originally intended for use by girls' and women's organizations, the lodgelike building has long been available for private parties and other community gatherings.

With the passage of the 21st Amendment and the end of Prohibition in 1933, happy days were here again for Kamm & Schellinger Brewery, which had muddled through the 1920s and early 1930s by producing nonalcoholic beverages. Kamm & Schellinger was one of the first companies in Indiana to resume making beer, and production soon reached 120,000 barrels per year. Kamm & Schellinger carried out a major plant expansion and modernization to meet this demand. A fatal explosion, a destructive fire, and strong competition from larger breweries, though, brought the end for Kamm & Schellinger in 1951.

Dodge Manufacturing suffered in the early years of the Depression but completed a financial reorganization that returned the company to profitability in 1935. Research and development led to the introduction of the Dodge Steel Conveyor Pulley in 1936 and new Timken bearing-equipped pillow blocks and the Sleeveoil line for fans and blowers in 1939.

The Depression years also saw the founding of a beloved Mishawaka business: Bonnie Doon. After brothers Herman and Andrew Muldoon sold the Muldoon Ice Cream Company on

South Main Street in 1936, they started another ice cream factory the next year in the former interurban train building near the southeast corner of East Fourth and South Main Streets. The Muldoons used the old freight depot in the rear of the building to manufacture their product, which a communitywide contest named Bonnie Doon. When the Bonnie Doon restaurant opened soon after in the former passenger terminal at the front of the building, it was the area's first drive-in with car-hop service. The company headquarters and manufacturing moved to Elkhart in 1995, production of Bonnie Doon ice cream ceased in 2013, and the Fourth Street restaurant closed. A Bonnie Doon drive-in and restaurant continues to operate seasonally on Lincolnway West.

The economic and employment challenges of the Great Depression led to diminished immigration, less migration, and a lower birthrate. As a result, Mishawaka lost population during the 1930s, falling from 28,630 people in 1930 to 28,298 in 1940. This 1.2% decrease marks the only time in the city's history that its population declined from one census to the next.

The United States was thrust into World War II when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Over 4,500 Mishawaka men and women served in the armed forces during the war, and 105 gave the last full measure of devotion for their country. Seaman 1/c Arthur Huys was killed aboard U.S.S. *Arizona* at Pearl Harbor, and Pvt. Paul Fechner, listed as missing in action after the Japanese attacked the Philippines, died in the Cabanatuan prisoner-of-war camp on July 3, 1942. Among the last Mishawakans to fall were Elizabeth Richardson, an American Red Cross worker killed in a plane crash in France on July 25, 1945, and Fireman 1/c Homer Smith and Radioman 2/c Allen Streich, who died five days later when U.S.S. *Indianapolis* was sunk in the Western Pacific.

On the home front, thousands of Mishawaka residents worked in factories making

military equipment. To meet labor demand, many did “victory shifts” after school or their regular jobs, and others migrated to Mishawaka for wartime employment, some from as far as Alabama.

Dodge Manufacturing produced marine bearings and drive shafts for ships, including the U.S. Navy's destroyer escorts that protected convoys from submarine attacks. Dodge also made thousands of shipping cases for B-17 bomber engines. In April 1944, Dodge Manufacturing's defense work was honored with the prestigious Army-Navy “E” Production Award, which recognized excellence in manufacturing war equipment, and Dodge received an additional star in 1945.

American Foundry Equipment Company's products were used in war manufacturing throughout the country, including the cleaning of armor plate, shells, bombs, rifles, tank parts, and airplane engines. The company received an Army-Navy “E” Production Award in April 1943 and three subsequent stars.

Ball-Band also helped achieve victory in World War II. Among its products, the plant made Army raincoats, Navy deep-sea diving suits, aviator boots, and fuel cells for aircraft, such as B-17s, B-25s, B-26s, B-29s, PBM-3s, and A-20Cs. In 1943, the Mishawaka plant reached its all-time highest employment of 9,446 workers.

The most famous chapter of Mishawaka's industrial work for the military involved Ball-Band's role in the Doolittle Raiders' daring attack on Tokyo. On April 18, 1942, sixteen B-25 bombers launched from the aircraft carrier USS *Hornet* with the task of hitting industrial and military targets in Tokyo and other cities. Under the command of Lt. Col. James H. Doolittle, the Doolittle Raiders carried out the first American attack on Japan. Ball-Band contributed significantly to the mission's success. The B-25 bombers were chosen because they could fly off a carrier, but they needed to be modified with extra fuel tanks to have a range of 2,400 miles—

enough to launch 450 miles or more east of Japan, strike their targets, and then continue to airstrips in eastern China. To get these special fuel cells, the Army Air Corps turned to Ball-Band. Working around the clock in February 1942, employees designed and built three fuel tanks for each B-25: a 225-gallon bulletproof fuel cell to fit in the bomb bay, a 160-gallon synthetic bladder for the crawlway between the cabin and aft fuselage, and a 60-gallon tank to be stowed in place of the lower gun turret. Doolittle visited the Mishawaka plant during production, but the mission and the purpose for the fuel cells remained top secret. Later, he sent a telegram to Ball-Band's employees, congratulating them on the vital work they had done.

In December 1942, the War Department conferred upon Ball-Band the first of four Army-Navy "E" Production Awards.

Mishawakans also aided the war effort through drives collecting scrap metal, paper, and even fats and grease. Citizens bought war bonds, planted victory gardens, and rationed commodities such as rubber, sugar, and gasoline for military use. Hundreds in the city did civil defense work, including air raid wardens and auxiliary police and fire forces. The Mishawaka chapter of the American Red Cross also trained nurse's aides and gathered supplies for the wounded recuperating in military hospitals. At Mishawaka High School, special courses in physics, aeronautics, and precision manufacturing were added. Juniors and seniors took physical fitness classes that prepared them for the rigors of combat or defense work. Mishawakans of all ages prayed for loved ones' safe return, comforted the grieving, and welcomed returning veterans with gratitude.

After four years of war preceded by a decade of the Great Depression, Mishawakans were eager to return to stability, prosperity, and normality. The immediate post-war years saw new development in several areas of Mishawaka life.

The Normain Heights subdivision, located northeast of the intersection of North Main Street and McKinley Avenue, has its origins in 1946 and is an important link to World War II, post-war suburbanization, and the Baby Boom. During the war, housing starts were nonexistent, and returning veterans wanted their own home. The move to build new homes was furthered by the G.I. Bill, which offered low-interest mortgage loans to veterans. In August 1946, the local American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and United Rubber Workers formed Veterans Homes of Mishawaka, Inc., a non-profit that would acquire and develop land to provide housing for veterans. While the housing was intended for vets, anyone could purchase a home in the subdivision. The organization purchased 80 acres of farmland, which was then annexed into the city. Groundbreaking for the first home occurred on November 13, 1947. Building at Normain Heights reached its maximum pace in the summer of 1948, the formal dedication was held in October 1948, and construction was completed by 1949. Normain Heights included 315 low-to-medium-cost houses. Buyers had a choice of seven house designs, and all homes were built with Reynolds aluminum siding, one of the early examples in the country of a large housing development built entirely with aluminum siding. The neighborhood had seven streets, all named for World War II battles: Normandy, Ardennes, Palau, Bastogne, Leyte, Saint Lo, and Guam. Seven-acre Normain Park and a two-acre commercial area along McKinley were also part of the original design. Despite 75 years of significant change around it, Normain Heights retains its identity and physical integrity as one of Mishawaka's distinct neighborhoods.

Postwar growth on Mishawaka's north side was also evidenced by the establishment of Bethel College at the southeast corner of McKinley Avenue and Logan Street. In 1944, the Mennonite Brethren in Christ approved the creation of a college to serve the needs of the denomination's young people, and a 40-acre campus was purchased on the northwest edge of

Mishawaka two years later. Twenty-seven-year-old Woodrow Goodman was chosen as the school's first president. Initially, several existing structures on the campus were used by the college. Bethel opened for student registration on September 15, 1947. Six days later, 400 people crowded inside the dining hall of the partially completed administration building to participate in the formal dedication of the college's facilities and grounds. Classes began on September 22 for the 94 enrolled students. "With Christ at the Helm" was the school's motto.

Another Mishawaka institution that was growing in the late 1940s was St. Joseph Hospital. Increasing demand for medical services was straining the capacity of its 1910 and 1918 buildings. In 1947, the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ approved plans for constructing a new wing of the hospital to the east of the 1918 structure. The cornerstone was laid in November 1947, and the building opened the following year. The new wing included an entire floor devoted to surgery and an expanded maternity ward on its own floor. The enlarged hospital was able to double the number of beds available for patients from 100 to 200.

In 1940-41, the Twin Branch Power Plant added a third generating unit, which was, according to a company publication, "the world's first generating unit to utilize steam pressure as high as 2,400 pounds per square inch in the commercial production of electric power." Eventually, a total of five generating units were installed at Twin Branch, "each larger and more economical and more efficient than its predecessors." When Unit 5 came online in 1949, it "held the world's record for operating efficiency by a single unit," I & M later touted. It featured a turbogenerator unit with the highest pressure (2,500 pounds per square inch) and the highest temperature (950 degrees) in the world. With the addition of Unit 5, the steam plant's footprint and profile were complete. The building stretched approximately 400' along the river and was crowned by a quartet of smokestacks, each of varying heights, with the tops being roughly 180'

tall.

In the late 1940s, Mishawaka High's cross country program ranked among the state's elite. The 1946 Maroons, coached by Walter "Dutch" Thurston, were undefeated, 11-0, in the regular season and finished third at the Northern Indiana High School Conference Meet. For the state meet on October 26, the number of runners was so large that the Indiana High School Athletic Association held two races, and the winner of each would share a co-state championship. Anderson won one race, and Mishawaka, facing stronger competition, took the other. The victory was Mishawaka's first state championship contested on the field. Thurston's 1947 Maroons were undefeated in the nine regular season meets, finished first in the conference and sectional, and took third place in the single state finals race that Anderson won. Francis Hill coached Mishawaka in 1948, and the Maroons extended their dual-meet winning streak to 28 on the strength of another undefeated regular season. They took the N.I.H.S.C. meet and defended their sectional crown. At the state finals, Anderson was too much for the Mishawakans and won the meet, 56-73. Hill's Maroons returned only one veteran among their top runners in 1949, but they did not miss a stride, winning all nine meets in the regular season to bring their streak to 37. Mishawaka was first in the conference and sectional meets, as well, setting up another battle with the Anderson Indians in the state finals. Anderson came away with a 67-79 win, but in a closer contest than in 1948. Had just one Mishawaka runner been three seconds faster, the Maroons would have been state champions.

Like many American cities, Mishawaka experienced a postwar population boom, which began in the 1940s and continued through the '50s. The city had a population of 32,918 in the 1950 U.S. Census, a 16.3% growth rate since 1940.

North Korea's invasion of South Korea on June 25, 1950, disrupted Mishawakans'

enjoyment of peacetime prosperity, and the nation was once again at war. American aircraft attacked the North Koreans, and ground troops were hurried to South Korea, but communist forces pushed the Americans and South Koreans back toward the Pusan Perimeter in southeast Korea. Mishawaka soldiers, sailors, and airmen were involved in this conflict. On July 27, 1950, Pfc. Charles Smith, serving in the U.S. Army, became the first Mishawakan killed in the Korean War. He was listed as missing in action while fighting the enemy near Anui. His remains were not recovered, and he was later presumed dead. United Nations forces surprised the North Koreans on September 15 with a daring invasion at Inchon, the North Koreans retreated in disarray, and Americans and South Koreans pursued them north of the 38th parallel to near the Yalu River. In November, China unleashed a massive counterattack, sending the United Nations troops reeling south beyond the border. The battle lines stabilized north of the 38th parallel for the next two years. In July 1953, an armistice stopped the fighting but kept the peninsula divided and heavily armed. Six Mishawakans were among the 36,574 American dead from the Korean War.

The 1950s saw the construction of prominent landmark buildings that changed the Mishawaka landscape and served the community for decades.

The Baby Boom necessitated constructing or adding on to several schools. An addition to Twin Branch School was completed in 1952, North Side School on East McKinley Avenue was built in 1954, and Emmons School on South Main Street opened in 1958. Mishawaka High School built an addition to its gymnasium in 1958, doubling the seating capacity to 4,071. In 1957, Beiger School received a 10-room wing to the south of the old building, and a two-story, 8-classroom addition was put on LaSalle School in 1959. Penn High School, just outside the city limits, opened in 1958 at the northeast corner of Jefferson and Bittersweet Roads. Completion of the new Bittersweet Bridge in late 1957 facilitated access for students who lived south of the

river.

All four of Mishawaka's Catholic congregations undertook substantial school construction projects in the 1950s: St. Bavo built a new school in 1954, St. Monica made an addition and constructed a new Grove Street facade in 1954, and St. Joseph replaced its 1902 building with a new school that opened in 1959. Queen of Peace, a new parish located at the northwest corner of Vistula and Bittersweet Roads, completed a combination school-church building in 1958. The parish used the school auditorium for Mass until a new church was built in 1970, the same year that the school closed.

Bethel College was also undergoing change. By 1959, according to Dr. Dennis Engbrecht, Bethel “had grown from a mere dream to the reality of a modestly prospering college.” The school completed its Administration/Library building in 1951, Goodman Auditorium in 1957, and Shupe Hall in 1959. Bethel had increased in enrollment from 94 students in 1947 to 329 students by the spring of 1959. During its first decade, 11 academic programs were introduced, including teacher education, and interscholastic athletics began with the Pilots’ first basketball game in January 1959.

Other significant buildings or structures were constructed throughout the city in the 1950s. The municipal utility building, located at the southeast corner of Church and First Streets, opened in 1950. The Wastewater Treatment Plant on Lincolnway West was completed in 1952. The next year, Mishawaka Rubber and Woolen finished a six-story power plant and a 250' smokestack, which was the icon of industrial Mishawaka for decades. The Eagles Club opened their aerie at the northwest corner of Fourth and Main in 1954, and the First Methodist Church added a chapel, fellowship hall, and classrooms to their building in 1957. The fire department opened a new South Side Station #3 at the southwest corner of Ninth and Wells Streets in 1959.

Mishawaka industry continued to grow and develop new products.

Ball-Band created products related to synthetic rubber and foam, adhesives, Jets and Summerettes sports shoes, and motor cases for missiles. To reflect the fact that Ball-Band no longer made woolen products, its name was contracted to Mishawaka Rubber Company in 1958.

Dodge Manufacturing introduced the Torque-Arm Speed Reducer in 1950, the Dodge All-Steel pillow blocks in 1953, the air clutch in 1954, the Flexidyne drive in 1955, and the Spher-Align barrel roller bearing and the Dodge Para-flex flexible coupling in 1957. These products were profitable for Dodge, and the company added to its manufacturing facilities in Mishawaka. Dodge Manufacturing was acquired by Reliance Electric in 1967.

In addition to the growth of established Mishawaka industries, the 1950s saw the development of the most extraordinary product ever manufactured in the city: the Talos missile. In the immediate aftermath of World War II, the U.S. Navy asked Bendix Corporation to develop a surface-to-air missile for fleet defense. Bendix began work on the missile at its South Bend facility, but the expanding operations required a larger plant, so Bendix bought and renovated the former Indestructo Trunk Company factory on South Beiger Street in Mishawaka to produce the Talos. Over the next several years, additional land was acquired, and other manufacturing, engineering, and storage buildings were constructed. The Talos missile was ready for testing in 1955, and the first Talos was installed on USS *Galveston* in 1958. The first operational Talos launch at sea occurred on February 24, 1959. Eventually, seven cruisers were equipped with the Talos. Touted as “The Long-Range Fist of the Fleet,” the Talos was used to protect ships against enemy aircraft and guided missiles. It had the first rocket-launched supersonic ramjet engine, could reach Mach 2.5, had a flight ceiling of 80,000 feet, and delivered either conventional or nuclear warheads. The Talos would play an important role in the Vietnam War.

During the 1950s, Mishawaka had one of the smallest population gains in its history, increasing just 1.3% to 33,361 in the 1960 census.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, urban renewal would impact homes and other buildings throughout Mishawaka. This occurred most profoundly, though, in the Hooligan Heights neighborhood surrounding LaSalle School and Mary Gibbard Park. In 1937, the Homeowner's Loan Corporation, part of the New Deal, had redlined the entire neighborhood by giving it a D-rating ("hazardous"), which made it nearly impossible for residents to get loans for home improvements. This redlining put the neighborhood into a "downward spiral," writes Susanna Ernst, that by the 1950s had made it a blighted area with many deteriorating or dilapidated homes. The federal government's urban renewal initiative was well underway by the mid-1950s, and Hooligan Heights would soon be its first and largest target in Mishawaka. Planning for the "LaSalle School Conservation District" urban renewal project began in 1958 and was announced to the public the following year. In 1960, the city's rehabilitation director, Zano Vannoni, assessed 600 homes in the neighborhood to determine which should be demolished and which could be retained if improvements were carried out. Vannoni counseled owners of properties in need of repair, and federal money was used to acquire and demolish homes and redevelop the property for future sale. Though the city was eager to carry out the project, many neighborhood residents were angry and frightened at the prospect of losing their homes and having to relocate. "Of the 869 dwellings in the renewal zone, 438 homes were refurbished, 117 land parcels were acquired, 88 homes were demolished, and 80 families were relocated," according to Ernst. As the urban renewal program addressed the neighborhood's housing in 1960 and 1961, the city, aided by the federal government, carried out infrastructure improvements in the area, including paving six miles of streets and adding new sewers, sidewalks, and curbs. Mary Gibbard Park also

received a new pool in 1961. Urban renewal arrested the decline of Hooligan Heights and put it back on the path of being the attractive, livable neighborhood that its developers had envisioned decades earlier.

At the same time urban renewal was remaking this southwest side neighborhood, the north side of Mishawaka was experiencing a different transformation. Groundbreaking for Town & Country Shopping Center, at the northeast corner of McKinley Avenue and Hickory Road, occurred in May 1960. The complex had 44 business spaces, including a department store, and acres of parking. Town & Country opened for business in the spring of 1961, accelerating the commercial growth of Mishawaka's north side but hastening the decline of downtown Mishawaka's retailers.

On the southeast edge of town, Portage Realty completed the first homes in the Reverewood subdivision in 1960. A 507-acre development located at the southeast corner of Harrison and Elm Roads, Reverewood was the largest planned housing community in the city's history. More than 60 years later, houses are still being built in Reverewood.

In October 1963, Mishawaka dedicated a new North Side Fire Station, located on North Main Street in Normain Heights.

One of the landmark events in the political history of Mishawaka occurred in the 1963 municipal election. Margaret "Maggie" Prickett, who owned a supermarket in Twin Branch, decided to run for mayor in 1963. She defeated two other candidates in the Republican primary, gaining the opportunity to challenge the incumbent, Joseph Canfield, who had won election in 1959 by the largest margin in the city's history. A well-organized campaign, widespread desire for change, and Maggie's personal popularity threatened the Democrats' 16-year hold on the mayor's office. After Mishawakans went to the polls on November 5, a record turnout gave

Prickett a stunning victory by a margin of 7,561 to 5,815 votes, making her the city's first woman mayor and just the third woman elected mayor in Indiana. On the strength of Maggie's candidacy, Republicans also swept every other office in the election: all seven city council seats, clerk-treasurer, and city judge. Never before and not since has either political party in Mishawaka suffered such a lopsided defeat. The most significant woman in Mishawaka history, Prickett would go on to win three more terms, serving from 1964-1980.

The tail-end of the Baby Boom led to still more expansion projects for Mishawaka schools. An eight-room unit of classrooms and an office were added to Twin Branch in 1962, a two-story classroom wing was built on the northeast side of Mishawaka High in 1963, and a ten-room addition was put on North Side School in 1965. A new wing of classrooms, offices, and a gym was added to Bingham School in 1967, and a nearly identical building was constructed adjacent to South Side School the following year.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend completed building Marian High School, located at the northwest corner of Dragoon Trail and Logan Street, in 1964. The two-story school included 33 classrooms, three science labs, two study halls, a library, a cafeteria, and a 2,500-seat gymnasium/auditorium. Two-hundred-forty freshmen opened the building in September, and they became Marian's first graduating class in 1968.

Bethel College completed Middleton Hall of Science in 1964 and Oakwood Hall men's dormitory in 1966.

Though Mishawaka was half a world away from Southeast Asia, the Vietnam War was felt in the city. Sgt. Richard Nuziard of the 3rd Marine Division was the first Mishawakan to die in Vietnam when he was accidentally shot on November 8, 1965. Pfc. John Van Driessche, a scout with the 9th U.S. Cavalry, became the city's first combat fatality when he was killed in a

mortar attack on May 7, 1966. Twenty Mishawaka men were among the 58,220 Americans killed in the Vietnam War.

A Mishawaka participant in the air war in Vietnam was Capt. Richard Brenneman, an F-4 pilot with the U.S. Air Force. While flying his 26th combat mission on November 8, 1967, Brenneman had to eject over North Vietnam after his plane was hit by a missile. He was captured and spent 1,954 days in a prisoner-of-war camp before being released on March 14, 1973. On April 7, Richard returned to a hero's welcome at the St. Joseph County Airport and was cheered by a thousand people, including Mayor Prickett. The next day, a crowd of over 2,000 well-wishers celebrated Capt. Brenneman's homecoming during a Community-Wide Tribute in the Mishawaka High School gymnasium.

In one of war's compelling ironies, the Brenneman family home on East Third Street was just two blocks from the Talos missile plant. Six months after one of its sons had become a casualty in the skies over North Vietnam, Mishawaka would strike back. On that day and several subsequent occasions, the Talos would be an instrument of vengeance against the North Vietnamese military. In the spring of 1968, the cruiser U.S.S. *Long Beach* was on duty in the Gulf of Tonkin, ready to use her Talos missiles to shoot down North Vietnamese aircraft attacking American ships. The Talos also had sufficient range to reach aircraft over North Vietnam. On May 23, 1968, *Long Beach* recorded the first U.S. Navy combat kill with a surface-to-air missile when a Talos downed a MiG fighter at a distance of 65 miles. The ship used a Talos to destroy another MiG at a range of 61 miles in September 1968. In the fall of 1968, the U.S. stopped firing Talos missiles over land, limiting their use to the Gulf of Tonkin. After this policy changed, the Talos again directly facilitated the American air campaign. U.S.S. *Oklahoma City* demonstrated the Talos's versatility by destroying a North Vietnamese mobile radar station on

February 4, 1972, the U.S. Navy's first successful combat surface-to-surface missile operation and anti-radiation missile attack. On May 9, 1972, U.S.S. *Chicago* shot down a MiG over North Vietnam at a distance of 48 miles. After Vietnam, the Talos's days of active duty for fleet defense were numbered. Its launch platform-- seven cruisers-- was becoming obsolete, and no other ship was large enough to carry Talos missiles. The last Talos was removed in 1979, and the remaining stock was converted into Vandal target drones at Bendix's Mishawaka plant.

One of the most memorable evenings in Mishawaka history occurred on May 2, 1968. Before the Indiana primary, Mishawaka was visited by Senator Eugene McCarthy, Governor Roger Branigin (a stand-in for Vice-President Hubert Humphrey), and, most famously, Senator Robert F. Kennedy. On May 2, Kennedy was traveling from Elkhart back to South Bend with a stop planned at Lincolnway and Main Street in downtown Mishawaka. Many residents had lined Kennedy's motorcade route along Lincolnway East, and several thousand more assembled at the Four Corners. The senator and his motorcade arrived at 7:30 p.m., an hour behind schedule, but the audience was undiminished in enthusiasm. Kennedy stood atop a small platform and spoke to the crowd in the twilight, the intersection jammed tightly with both supporters and those who just wanted to experience the Kennedy mystique or a historic event. The candidate spoke of his opposition to urban and campus rioting, expressed desire for educational and employment opportunities, asserted that the South Vietnamese would need to take on a bigger role in winning the Vietnam War, and vowed to be tough on communism. Kennedy then rode down Eighth Street through the West End, where hundreds more were able to see, touch, or shake hands with the candidate they hoped would be the next president. Five days later, Senator Kennedy won overwhelmingly the Mishawaka vote and took the Indiana contest. On June 5, he was shot in Los Angeles after his victory in the California primary.

The urban renewal that impacted Hooligan Heights in the early 1960s also forever changed the appearance of downtown Mishawaka later in the decade. City leaders were eager to remove old, decaying commercial properties and houses in the downtown and replace them with modern buildings that served the community's needs. By the mid-1960s, the city developed a plan for a "civic center," which would include a new post office and public library. The magnificent Hotel Mishawaka was demolished in May 1968, and the post office was built on that site, occupying the entire block bounded by Third, Main, Fourth, and Church Streets. It opened in June 1969. The old post office diagonally across the Third and Church intersection was retained and had various uses proposed, including a courthouse and annex for county offices. The property to the north was cleared, and the Mishawaka Public Library opened at the corner of Lincolnway East and Church in July 1969. As for the remainder of the block, architect Paul Jernegan, who owned the Jernegan Building immediately east of the library, proposed building a 33-story, 408'-tall structure called Centerpoint Tower on the property, part of his ambitious plans for major redevelopment throughout the central business district, but the project never came to fruition. Two blocks to the east on Lincolnway, the Mix Mansion, once the home of Dodge Manufacturing president Melville Mix, was razed in 1968 to make way for the 114-unit 500 Lincoln Way East Apartments that opened in 1970 for low-income seniors. On the southwest edge of downtown, St. Joseph Hospital opened a new five-story wing, which included an attractive façade and east-facing main entrance, in 1970.

Another landmark built in the 1960s was the Merrifield Park pool and recreational complex, which opened in 1968 and included an Olympic-sized pool, diving tower, and ice-skating rink. Mayor Margaret Prickett built the complex to combat the "there's nothing to do here" syndrome she worried was causing young people to leave town.

Not everyone was leaving, though. During the 1960s, Mishawaka experienced robust population growth. The 1970 census showed 36,060 residents in the city, an 8.1% increase since 1960.

The 1970s were one of the most eventful decades Mishawaka has ever experienced. In addition to Capt. Brenneman's homecoming in 1973, these years were filled with school construction, great athletic successes, more urban renewal downtown, significant historic preservation efforts, transformative developments on the far north side, changes in the Mishawaka Police Department and Emergency Medical Services, and momentous events in city politics.

School City of Mishawaka carried out several building projects during the decade. To accommodate the student population from Reverewood, Hums Elementary School opened in 1970 on Harrison Road. Main Junior High closed in early 1973 and was replaced by the new John Young Junior High on North Main Street. Among the school's features were a gymnasium, instructional materials center, cafeteria, planetarium, and football field with running track. As freshmen moved to the city's three junior highs, Beiger and Emmons had additions put on their buildings to accommodate the larger student populations.

In 1972, Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation opened Walt Disney School at the southwest corner of Day and Filbert Roads. Walt Disney is the only P-H-M school located in the Mishawaka city limits.

Twin City Baptist Church on East Jefferson Boulevard started a school in 1973, and First Baptist Church Christian School opened in 1977.

Bethel College's enrollment reached 472 students in 1974 before declining over the next several years. The school's physical plant was enhanced by completion of a new dining

commons in 1978.

On November 17, 1973, Marian High School enjoyed the thrill of winning two state championships on a single day. The Knights' football team, 8-2 in the regular season, reached the inaugural Class A championship game after crushing Woodlan, 42-0, in the opening playoff contest at Mishawaka's Tupper Field. To get to Clarksville Providence High for the title game, Marian chartered a United Airlines 737 to Louisville and then traveled on buses over the Ohio River for the 2:00 p.m. kick-off. Before a crowd of 4,500 fans, only 400 of whom were for Marian, the Knights scored first on Nick Barnes's one-yard dive and Nick DeCicco's extra point but trailed, 8-7, at halftime. Marian took command in the third quarter on Barnes's 75-yard touchdown run and a 60-yard drive that culminated in Gerry Kurth's one-yard plunge. The Pioneers' late score was not enough, and the Knights emerged victorious, 21-14. Even more impressive was the Marian volleyball team's performance in the state finals at Ben Davis High in Indianapolis the same day. After winning the Mishawaka sectional and Goshen regional, the undefeated Knights advanced to the eight-team finals. In the morning, Marian outlasted Muncie North (15-13, 7-9, 15-2) and then pounded South Bend LaSalle (15-1, 15-1) in the semi-final before defeating Fort Wayne Snider (15-10, 15-4) for the state championship in the evening. In an open-class tourney with 346 schools participating, the Knights were the best volleyball team in the state, finishing 18-0 on the season.

Marian's football team also won Class AA state championships in 1975 and 1976. The Knights were undefeated (9-0) during the 1975 regular season and ranked #3 in the final state poll. In the sectional round of the four-team state play-off, Marian traveled to Blackford and crushed the Bruins, 34-0. For the state championship, the Knights were again on the road, this time against Greenfield-Central. In front of 5,000 fans, Marian posted an identical score, 34-0, to

dominate the Cougars and claim their second state title in three seasons. In 1976, the Knights again had a 9-0 record during the regular season and entered the play-offs ranked #2 in the state. In games held at Mishawaka's Tupper Field, Marian trounced Plymouth, 34-0, to win the sectional, held off McCutcheon, 14-7, for the regional title, and overpowered previously unbeaten Jasper, 34-7, as a crowd of 4,000 watched the Knights win their 24th consecutive game.

Urban renewal in downtown Mishawaka continued in the 1970s and drastically altered the area bounded by Lincolnway West and Main, Front, and Spring Streets. Anchoring the "100 Northwest block" between Main and Mill Streets were two former bank buildings: the Mishawaka Trust and Savings Company and the Mishawaka Loan and Trust Company. Commercial storefronts lined Lincolnway West, and North Main had a similar streetscape. By the early 1970s, these buildings were deteriorating but still featured various shops, a drug store, a tavern, and a restaurant. In 1973, the redevelopment department put the Northwest Block in its sights and initiated a plan to acquire this entire block and the block to the west, demolish all the buildings, and sell the land to a private developer who would construct new commercial buildings. Property owners, an organization known as Friends of Mishawaka Downtown, and state and national historic preservation groups fought a protracted legal battle to save the historic block. Faced with determined opposition, the city made a final effort to market the buildings to anyone who would restore them, but no takers were found. The west half of the block was demolished in 1974-1975, but it was not until 1977-1978 that the last legal wranglings ended and the half of the block facing North Main was also razed.

Not since the Great Mishawaka Fire of 1872 had such destruction occurred in the downtown. The list of casualties included at least 15 historic structures, five built immediately after the fire and others before the turn of the century. The block to the west was also acquired

and cleared by 1982, and this part of the downtown became a vast open space, suitable for a temporary parking lot and displaying the municipal Christmas tree. Meanwhile, the rest of downtown died a slow death as, one by one, most remaining stores closed their doors over the following decades. Others, such as Will's Jewelry, survived the vicissitudes around them.

After the new post office building opened in 1970, its former location remained vacant until the Mishawaka Police Department moved out of City Hall's basement and transformed the old post office into its new home in 1974.

Another significant historic preservation project of the 1970s was the Beiger Mansion, a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places. After Martin Beiger died in 1903, Susie Beiger eventually completed the house in 1909 and made it the city's most opulent residence. After her death in 1927, the Beiger Mansion became a home for elderly women, a role it played from 1930 until 1967. Afterward, the building's future was uncertain. Numerous uses were proposed for it, and the specter of demolition hovered always in the background. The Beiger Heritage Corporation, a historic preservation group, acquired the Beiger Mansion in 1973 and was in the process of restoring the building when it was destroyed by fire in the early morning hours of January 20, 1975. The blaze began in the basement and was electrical in its origin. The fire department was unable to stop the flames from climbing to the second and third floors and roof, which collapsed into the basement. Most of the building's interior was destroyed and its historic contents ruined. Concerned citizens funded a lengthy restoration by running a restaurant and bed-and-breakfast in the building. In 1992, Beiger Heritage sold the mansion to a private buyer, who continued the building's restoration. Today, "The Beiger" includes a bed-and-breakfast and hosts receptions, weddings, and other gatherings.

In 1977, Mishawaka began operating an Emergency Medical Services Department. Under

director Michael Hargreaves, an initial staff of six emergency medical technicians (EMT) was hired. Two EMTs were always on duty in 24-hour shifts. They would drive an ambulance to the scene of a medical emergency and administer treatment while using a hospital-to-ambulance radio system. Previously, the police department operated an ambulance, but drivers and police had little training beyond first aid. In the following years, Hargreaves developed a highly effective paramedicine program that became a model for other cities.

The former Kamm & Schellinger Brewery complex experienced a different kind of renewal than the urban renewal being waged against the downtown's historic buildings. Local businessman and urban planner T. Brooks Brademas led a group of investors to turn the site into the 100 Center, an eclectic mix of shops, restaurants, and even a movie theater. Brademas retained most of the historic brewery buildings but demolished the Adolph Kamm House at the northeast corner of Center Street and Lincolnway West. Apartments and condominiums were built on the west side of the former brewery site. The largest building constructed in the 100 Center complex was the 8-story 100 Center Hi-Rise, which was completed in 1978 and provided 104 units for low-income elderly.

By the 1970s, Mishawaka's industrial infrastructure was aging and, in some cases, becoming obsolete, as evidenced by the demise of the Twin Branch Power Plant. In the early 1970s, Twin Branch was one of the three major plants contributing to I & M's total generating capability of 1,900,000 kilowatts. I & M more than doubled its electricity production after Unit 1 of the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant in Bridgman, Michigan, opened in August 1975 and Unit 2 came online in July 1978. Construction of the Cook Nuclear Plant was a reminder that the Twin Branch Power Plant was a dinosaur limping into its final years of service. Despite being more expensive and less efficient than newer coal-burning plants, Twin Branch stayed in operation

because I & M faced steadily increasing demand for electricity. A milestone for the plant occurred on January 31, 1971, the last time all four of its smokestacks were using coal. That day, Units 1 and 2 were shut down permanently. Air pollution laws aimed at reducing both particulate matter and sulfur dioxide emissions prompted I & M to begin converting the Twin Branch Power Plant from coal to oil in mid-1973. Unit 3 was allowed to continue burning coal until April 1974, after which it would be used only on an emergency basis. Conversion of Units 4 and 5 to burning low-sulfur No. 2 fuel oil was completed by September 1973. The combination of outdated equipment, strict anti-pollution regulations, and the high cost of oil proved fatal to the Twin Branch Power Plant. According to I & M, the plant “was put into reserve in 1979,” and an A.E.P. history says Units 4 and 5 were “retired at the end of 1980.” Demolition of the massive plant was complete by 1985. The Twin Branch Dam, though, continues to produce electricity.

Of all the events and developments that occurred in Mishawaka in the 1970s, the most significant was the opening of University Park Mall on the city’s far north side. Throughout the country, developers were building indoor shopping malls, combining the best features of the old downtown retail experience with the convenience and safety of suburban shopping, all under one roof. Scottsdale Mall opened on the south side of South Bend in 1973, but the potential for another, even larger shopping mall in St. Joseph County drew the interest of Edward J. DeBartolo, Sr., the nation’s leading mall developer. The Edward J. DeBartolo Corporation and co-developers George and Donald Cressy sought to build a mall at the southwest corner of Grape and Cleveland Roads in what was then unincorporated land. The property was over a mile north of the Mishawaka city limits. South Bend rejected annexing the 80-acre property, but Mayor Prickett agreed to annex the site and extend utilities for the mall.

Construction of University Park Mall began in the spring of 1975, and its grand opening

occurred in March 1979. The 964,051-square-foot facility featured four anchor stores, 105 specialty shops, and a 4,630-space parking lot. The DeBartolo Corp. estimated that the mall's tenants would employ 1,500-2,000 full- and part-time employees and that 100,000 shoppers would visit the mall in an average week. The mammoth mall quickly attracted satellite shopping centers, such as University Center across Grape Road and, within a few years, Indian Ridge and Wilshire Plaza just south of the Indiana Toll Road. Many other retail developers would soon follow as farmland turned into sprawling shopping centers and acres of asphalt parking lots.

Margaret Prickett's visionary decision to bring University Park Mall to Mishawaka would be her greatest legacy as mayor. Spurring the retail and commercial development of Mishawaka's far north side created thousands of jobs, added enormously to the tax base, potentially staved off a "unigov" consolidation with South Bend, and transformed Mishawaka's image and identity from that of a Rust Belt factory town into the region's shopping destination. This development continues into the twenty-first century.

Mayor Prickett's success with University Park Mall was not enough to win her a fifth term in the November 1979 municipal elections. Republican apathy, a widespread belief that a record 16-year term was enough, and aggressive, well-organized campaigning by Democrat candidates and their supporters swept Robert Kovach, a former state senator, into the mayor's office. Kovach defeated Prickett by a margin of 6,869 to 6,360 votes.

Mishawaka's population grew 11.5% during the 1970s, making it one of the state's fastest growing municipalities, and the city achieved the milestone of having 40,201 residents in the 1980 census.

One of the great Mishawaka stories of the 1980s was the success of Mishawaka High's volleyball team. In 1980, second-year coach Steve Anderson led the Cavemen to a 17-1 record

and undefeated mark in the Northern Indiana Conference, earning the school's first berth in the I.H.S.A.A. volleyball state finals. Mishawaka went on to win the state championship, defeating Twin Lakes. In the following years, the Cavemen built a volleyball dynasty with a remarkable resume of conquests. Under Anderson, Mishawaka ended as state runner-up in 1981, won the sectional in 1982, and upset Muncie Burriss, ranked #2 in the country, for the 1983 state crown. Anderson left the program for the 1984 season to serve as an assistant coach at Florida State University, but he returned to lead the Cavemen to a regional title in 1985 and state runner-up finishes in 1986 and 1987. With only two returning players who had varsity experience, the Cavemen seemed to be in rebuilding mode entering the 1988 season. To the contrary, Mishawaka quickly proved to be one of the top teams in the state and, for the first time in program history, held the #1 ranking in the state by mid-September. The Cavemen again reached the state finals, won its third state title of the decade by defeating Carroll, and finished the season ranked #7 in the country. Mishawaka returned to the state finals in 1989 but fell in the semi-final round. The Cavemen were undefeated (90-0) in the conference for the decade, won eight sectional and eight regional titles, qualified for seven state finals, earned three state runner-up finishes, and claimed three state championships. In putting together this resume, the Mishawaka volleyball program brought pride to the city and set a historic standard of success that other Cavemen athletic teams would aspire to.

Declining enrollment and aging buildings led School City of Mishawaka to close two elementary schools and one junior high and replace another elementary, build a large addition at Mishawaka High, and bring the freshmen back to the high school-- all between 1981 and 1983. Battell School, which consisted of three large buildings dating to the first decade of the century, closed after the 1980-81 school year, and that fall a new Battell opened six blocks east at the

northeast corner of Cedar and Battell Streets. The City of Mishawaka acquired the old building and renovated it into senior housing and a community center. School City closed South Side School after the 1981-82 school year, demolished the original 1908 wing, and sold the remainder of the building to the South Bend Hebrew Day School. Bingham School closed after the 1982-83 school year, was purchased by the City of Mishawaka, and became the new City Hall two years later. Emmons Junior High also closed in 1983, leaving just Beiger and John Young as the city's junior highs. Amidst these closures, the school board also decided to return the freshmen to the high school, making the junior highs be for grades 7-8 and requiring expansion at the high school. When the freshmen entered Mishawaka High in the fall of 1983, they were greeted by a two-story addition on the west side of the school, featuring a large study hall, classrooms, music rooms, and a commons area. Four years later, Mishawaka High added an auxiliary gym and a pool to the west of the 1983 addition.

Bethel College also experienced growth and success in the 1980s. The Eastwood Hall residential apartments opened in 1981, and the Otis and Elizabeth Bowen Library was completed in 1983. It included the papers and many personal possessions of the former Indiana governor, who would also serve as Secretary of Health & Human Services under President Ronald Reagan from 1985-1989. Bethel's baseball team won the N.C.C.A.A. national championship in 1986, the first of over 40 national titles for the school's athletic program. The addition of a nursing education program helped increase Bethel's enrollment to what was then an all-time high of 539 in 1983.

Mishawaka celebrated its 150th birthday in 1983. A fifteen-member Sesquicentennial Commission planned a yearlong celebration with numerous activities, including a costume ball in University Park Mall attended by 1,700 participants, a Princess Mishawaka contest, a live shot

on *Good Morning, America* announcing the city's birthday, a history book entitled *A Mishawaka Mosaic*, and commemorative plates, spoons, glasses, and other memorabilia. A Founder's Day celebration in Merrifield Park on July 16 included a reenactment of the centennial historical pageant performed in 1932, musical performances, a softball game between Republicans and Democrats, a beard-growing contest, organized games, and an arts and crafts show. The local genealogical society presented pioneer certificates to 80 Mishawakans who were descendants of settlers present in Mishawaka before 1883. The sesquicentennial even had its own logo and slogan, "Tomorrow Lives in the Light of Our Past."

Downtown Mishawaka had been a work in progress for 150 years, and it saw major construction projects during the first half of the 1980s.

The city's first railroad underpass opened in 1981, flowing traffic between Church Street north of the Conrail tracks to Union Street south of the tracks. North of First Street, Church Street was rerouted into Main Street and over the Main Street Bridge. This street project had the effect of bypassing Main Street in the downtown and improving traffic movement through the central business district. Directly in the path of the underpass, though, was St. Peter's Lutheran Church. The congregation had to replace its 1902 building with a new edifice at the southeast corner of Dragoon Trail and South Main Street.

The huge void that once was the historic Northwest Block remained...but not for long. City officials considered various development proposals, but none was satisfactory until Liberty Mutual Insurance Company decided to build a new Midwest underwriting office there. Liberty Mutual constructed a triangular-shaped, two-story building with over 93,000 sq. feet of office space for use by its 280 employees. The building's east and south sides ran along North Main Street and Lincolnway West, respectively, and a 280-space parking lot occupied the remainder of

the property. Liberty Mutual employees moved into the building in January 1985.

The redevelopment department felt vindicated that years spent trying to acquire these two blocks and clear their old buildings had paid off nicely with the largest office building in town. All the better was that Liberty Mutual had been lured away from downtown South Bend, where it had rented space for 14 years. The Liberty Mutual building would fill a big space, bring jobs downtown, and pay a large sum in property taxes every year. Despite these positives, the orange brick and plain, modern appearance of the structure seemed out of place compared to the other three blocks at the Four Corners. Sadness for the historic buildings that had been irretrievably lost added to the mixed feelings about Liberty Mutual's presence in downtown Mishawaka.

Other changes occurred a block away at the City Hall/Central Fire Station site. After City Hall moved into the former Bingham School, the old building was demolished in 1987. Adjacent to it, Central Fire Station stood for several more years, though, until a new station was opened on Union Street in 1991. The Emergency Medical Services Department, which had operated out of a building behind City Hall, got its own facility on East Mishawaka Avenue in 1990.

Two transportation projects completed in the mid-1980s would have far-reaching implications for the development of Mishawaka's east and northeast sides. In 1982, the city finally got its long-sought access to the Indiana Toll Road with an exchange at Mile 83, three miles east of University Park Mall. The new Capital Avenue Bridge over the St. Joseph River opened in the fall of 1986, part of the Capital Avenue Expressway that initially connected Lincolnway East to Jefferson Boulevard and would later link the proposed extension of the U.S. 20 by-pass south of Mishawaka to the Indiana Toll Road.

Elsewhere in the East End, the Mishawaka-Penn Public Library opened its Bittersweet Branch in 1984. The library closed the small Osceola Branch and consolidated its offerings in the

spacious new building located on Bittersweet Road, just north of Vistula.

Mishawaka industry faced challenging times during the recession years of 1979-1982 and in the years that followed. Officials at Dodge/Reliance Electric, which had been acquired by Exxon in 1979, announced in the fall of 1982 that much of the Mishawaka plant's operations would be moving to southern Indiana and locations in Tennessee and North Carolina. A foundry, conveyor systems production, and large sheave operations would remain in Mishawaka.

Wheelabrator, another of Mishawaka's major employers, completely closed its Mishawaka plant by 1988 and moved operations to Georgia. Uniroyal, formerly Mishawaka Rubber, remained the city's largest employer, with 1,300 workers by the mid-1980s, but 42 acres of antiquated buildings, ongoing disputes with organized labor, and a highly competitive marketplace led Uniroyal Plastics to file for bankruptcy in 1990. The long-term survival of Mishawaka's Uniroyal plant seemed doubtful.

As the "Big 3" Mishawaka employers were in decline or leaving altogether in the 1980s, the A.M. General plant on McKinley Highway was making Mishawaka a world-famous center of auto production and innovation. Following the Vietnam War, the U.S. military sought a replacement for the M151 Jeep, the M561 Gamma Goat, and other light trucks. In 1979, A.M. General began designing a vehicle that would meet the U.S. Army's specifications and was awarded the contract for the all-terrain military High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV), or Humvee, in 1983, the first installment of a 5-year deal for 55,000 vehicles. Production began in Mishawaka in April 1984, using a factory where A.M. General had produced 5,400 transit buses from 1974-1979. Within ten years, A.M. General had shipped over 100,000 Humvees for the U.S. military and foreign customers. The Humvee was first used in combat during Operation Just Cause, the U.S. invasion of Panama, in 1989, and was one of the

signature vehicles in Operation Desert Shield and the Persian Gulf War of 1991.

The problems of Mishawaka industry in the 1980s did not result in the city's decline or a population decrease, both of which had happened in South Bend after Studebaker closed in 1963. Instead, commercial employment in the Grape Road area and job opportunities in neighboring cities enabled Mishawakans to earn a living, buy a home, and raise their families in the safety and beauty of the Princess City. Mishawaka's population grew to 42,608 by 1990, a 6% increase from a decade before.

The Mishawaka High wrestling team thrilled the community by winning the 1991 I.H.S.A.A. state championship, the school's first state title in a boys' sport since the 1946 cross country team. The #3-ranked Cavemen had won the Mishawaka Wrestling Invitational by defeating Belmont, 202 ½-158; claimed the sectional title by dominating Penn, 217-170 ½; beat LaPorte, 165 ½ -100, for the regional; and crushed Western, 114-75, to take the semi-state title. In the state tournament format used then, individual wrestlers, not the entire team, competed at the state finals and earned points for the team's total and final placing. Mishawaka advanced six wrestlers to the state finals, and four of them won their first-round match at Market Square Arena in Indianapolis on Friday, February 15. The quartet also was victorious in their quarter-final matches on Saturday morning, and three Cavemen wrestlers reached the state championship round later that day. Mike Lehman won the state title at 112 pounds, and Devon Nelson (103) and Jim Stephens (145) were state runners-up. Despite having only one individual state champion, Mishawaka wrestlers had scored 70 points in the state finals, enough to claim the team championship ahead of runner-up Lawrence North's 57 ½ points.

The commercial growth on Mishawaka's far north side that began with University Park Mall and University Center in 1979 and Indian Ridge and Wilshire Plaza in the early 1980s

continued unabated in the 1990s.

After the mall opened, Donald Cressy began planning Edison Lakes Corporate Park, a 700-acre development near the intersection of Day Road and North Main Street. Cressy hoped to attract large, upscale office buildings as well as a variety of smaller office buildings, a fashion mall, and a hotel. Construction started in 1988 and included Edison Lakes Parkway, which ran east from Main and north to Day before curving west to intersect an eventual extension of North Main.

One of Cressy's great successes was convincing National Steel Corporation, the fourth largest steel producer in the United States and a Fortune 200 company, to move its corporate offices from Pittsburgh to Edison Lakes. The move was announced in December 1991 and was completed by the following fall, bringing 150 workers and their families to the Mishawaka area.

To prepare for additional growth, the City of Mishawaka carried out several road projects that enabled access to parcels of land that could be developed into commercial sites. North Main Street was extended from Day Road to Indian Ridge Boulevard in 1992 and then to Cleveland Road (State Road 23) in 1993. The next year, University Drive was extended from Grape Road to North Main.

Significant new construction soon followed. In 1993, Mishawaka finished the Douglas Road Fire Station, east of North Main. Meijer opened a superstore at the northeast corner of Grape and Edison Lakes Parkway in 1994. The next year, Menard's completed its store at the southwest corner of North Main and University Drive, and Lowe's opened just south of Meijer. In 1999, a Wal-Mart Supercenter opened on Indian Ridge Boulevard.

For years, city officials had tried in vain to attract national hotel and motel chains to the Princess City. Those efforts finally paid off in 1995 when five hotels opened on the north side of

town: Varsity Clubs of America, Holiday Inn Express, Courtyard by Marriott, Fairfield Inn, and Hampton Inn. Soon, numerous hotels were being built along University Drive, North Main Street, and Day Road.

Other parts of Mishawaka also saw new building projects and other developments.

After former city controller Katherine Kosanovich died in 1993, a triangular parcel of land at the northeast corner of Logan Street and Lincolnway West was turned into Kate's Garden, an attractive park overlooking the St. Joseph River.

Following demolition of the old City Hall and nearby buildings at First and Church Streets, the redevelopment department attempted unsuccessfully to get a private developer to build a hotel or office building on the site. At the same time, the police department was outgrowing the former post office and planning to construct its first building designed specifically as a police station. With no private takers for the property, city leaders finally decided to bring the police department back to where it had spent seventy years. The new police station opened in 1995.

One block south, the Mishawaka-Penn Public Library carried out an expansion and renovation of its downtown branch in 1997-98. The former police station/post office building was vacant, and the library needed more space, having quickly outgrown a 1984 addition. The library board's ambitious response was to acquire its historic neighbor, demolish two later additions on the rear of the building, and expand the library, incorporating the old post office into the larger structure that would extend to Third Street. As the new building was under construction, the existing library underwent renovation, and various departments moved to new locations in the reconfigured floorplan that doubled the size of the library. An impressive atrium greeted patrons, and its signature feature was an original Perkins wind mill that was a gift of the

Mishawaka Lions Club. The former post office became the Heritage Center, where the library's local history and genealogical collections were available.

The far south end of town was also experiencing growth. In 1991, the U.S. 20 by-pass, which for many years had ended at U.S. 31 on the south side of South Bend, was extended to Elkhart, and a Bremen Highway interchange gave Mishawakans access to the new road. What had once been farmland at the southeast corner of Ireland Road and Bremen Highway suddenly became prime real estate, and residents began to wonder if that area would see a commercial boom like the north side of town had. In 1995, Meijer added to these hopes or concerns when it built a second Mishawaka superstore on the site. Residential developments immediately north and east of the Meijer store soon followed, and the nearby Autumn Trails and Rosewood subdivisions brought new home construction adjacent to the Blair Hills neighborhood.

Along Mishawaka's border with South Bend, the South Ironwood Drive underpass opened in 1999. Running from Lincolnway West to Milburn Boulevard, it helped alleviate traffic bottlenecks and delays at the Norfolk Southern tracks.

In contrast to the growth occurring throughout the city, the Uniroyal factory, the corporate descendant of Mishawaka's oldest industry, was in its final years. After Uniroyal Plastics filed for bankruptcy, the company made it clear that it could not remain in downtown Mishawaka. Mayor Robert Beutter and other city officials were eager to have Uniroyal leave the site, which could become a riverfront park and an ideal location for office buildings, apartments, and retail space. Uniroyal and the city sparred over the enormous environmental clean-up that would be needed after the plant closed, and Uniroyal eventually left the city altogether and carried on with diminished operations in South Bend. The Mishawaka plant shut down on April 1, 1997. The City of Mishawaka purchased the 42-acre site and its 56 buildings in 1998, began demolition,

and worked with the Environmental Protection Agency to remove subsurface pollution.

Demolition was completed by five thousand well-placed sticks of dynamite that created a spectacular implosion on the morning of June 17, 2000. Within 30 seconds, five remaining large buildings and the 250-foot smokestack came down with a loud roar, a ground-shaking vibration, and a massive dust cloud. The falling smokestack severed detonator cords in the powerhouse, causing that structure to remain partially standing. Additional charges brought it down the next day. Thousands watched from rooftops and from streets outside the safety perimeter as the last vestiges of the historic factory came tumbling down. Some wept for the history being destroyed, many celebrated in anticipation of the redevelopment that clearing the factory would make possible, and others were just excited to be part of the biggest blast in Mishawaka history.

Another Mishawaka industry closed soon after. In the late 1990s, AlliedSignal, formerly Bendix, still employed 150 people at its plant on South Beiger Street. When the U.S. Navy considered switching to a new supersonic target drone, AlliedSignal proposed the Sea Snake, which would have been produced at the Mishawaka plant. The Navy later rejected the Sea Snake and chose not to continue the Vandal program. As a result, all missile production in Mishawaka ceased in 2000.

Mishawaka schools went through another round of school closures and new construction in the late 1990s. Mary Phillips and North Side closed after the 1998-99 school year, and their students attended a new Liberty School that was constructed behind North Side. Beiger Junior High also closed that spring, and its students were sent to John Young Middle School, which was expanded with more classrooms and a second gym to accommodate the increased enrollment. Mishawaka High's industrial arts wing was demolished and rebuilt on-site as a two-story science and technology facility, which opened in 1999. Queen of Peace School, which had closed in

1970, reopened in 1999, giving Mishawaka a fourth Catholic grade school once again.

Under the presidency of Dr. Norman Bridges (1989-2004), Bethel College experienced unprecedented growth and success. Enrollment increased from 552 to 1,848 during Bridges's tenure, and new majors were added, such as sign language interpreting, environmental biology, and criminal justice. Several apartment-style residential halls were built in the early 1990s, the Everest-Rohrer Chapel/Fine Arts Center, including a 900-seat auditorium, was opened in 1996, the 2,600-seat Wiekamp Athletic Center hosted its first basketball game in 1998, the Sailor Residential Center was completed in 1999, and the Miller-Moore Academic Center, an office and classroom building, was ready for use in the fall of 2000. A new bookstore was the final construction project completed under President Bridges.

Spurred by many new homes built in the 1990s, Mishawaka's population grew by 9.3% during the decade. The 2000 census showed 46,557 persons resided in the Princess City.

The 2001 Marian High boys golf team won the school's first state championship in 25 years. After finishing the regular season ranked ninth in the state, the Knights won the South Bend sectional by defeating LaPorte, 299-306, and then took the LaPorte regional title over Andean, 310-315. In the state finals, held on June 13-14 at the Legends of Indiana Golf Course in Franklin, Marian held a one-stroke lead over Zionsville, 294-295, after the first round and widened this advantage on the second day of competition after shooting a 295 to the Eagles' 303. The Knights were paced by three golfers in the top 20 individual standings: Daniel Klauer and Cole Isban's two-round scores of 143 and David Lindley's 148. D.J. Fitzpatrick and Steve Cashore were the other members of Marian's championship team. The Knights' score of 589 shattered the previous state finals record of 599 set by Noblesville in 1998.

The last component of School City's series of school closures and new construction

involved Beiger School. After Beiger Junior High closed in 1999, the elementary utilized the entire building until a new school was completed on the east half of the property. Students began using the new Beiger in late 2002, and the old building fell to the wrecking ball early the next year. While schools are always undergoing repairs and improvements, School City has neither closed nor built any schools since Beiger.

After the former Uniroyal site was cleared, Mishawaka turned its attention to the river in ways it had not since the city's earliest years. Residents enjoyed the impressive vista available from the north bank of the river, including the view of downtown's churches and the hills to the south. To bring more visitors to the riverfront and existing parks, Mishawaka embarked on an ambitious multi-year project to develop a Riverwalk that would eventually connect Central Park and the Cedar Street Bridge to Battell Park, the Logan Street Bridge, Kate's Garden, Lincoln Park, Kamm Island Park, and Robert Beutter Riverfront Park, which opened in 2004 on land that had been covered by factory buildings for over a century. The Riverwalk was built in stages, and segments were later stitched together into a three-mile, continuous walking route with 10-foot-wide sidewalks, lighting, benches, and other enhancements. The Riverwalk's first stage was built from Logan Street along Wilson Boulevard through Battell Park, and the second stage was completed through Central Park. Development of the Riverwalk on the south bank of the river went from Beutter Park to Lincoln Park, including three footbridges that provided access to Kamm Island. These sections of the Riverwalk were largely completed by 2003. In 2008, the Riverwalk from Central Park to Battell Park was completed, and an iconic cable-stay bridge was erected between Beutter Park and Battell Park. In 2009, the final phase of the west Riverwalk connected Lincoln Park and Kate's Garden. The Riverwalk became an instant hit, attracting walkers, joggers, and bicyclists from Mishawaka and surrounding areas. In addition to its fitness

benefits, the Riverwalk engendered a new appreciation for the beauty of the St. Joseph River, one of the city's most valuable resources.

City leaders hoped the Riverwalk and Beutter Park would spur development of the remainder of the Uniroyal site and parcels of land to the south. For years, though, most of this property sat vacant. An exception to this was the three-story Ironworks office building, completed in 2008 just west of the Main Street Bridge. At first, it struggled to find tenants, but later the Ironworks building became home to a variety of businesses, including a large dental practice. The property south and west of Beutter Park would eventually attract some of the large-scale construction the city had hoped for, but development of the area is still incomplete more than 20 years after the Uniroyal implosion.

The city's eagerness for urban renewal that led to razing the Hotel Mishawaka in the 1960s and demolition of the Northwest Block in the 1970s and early '80s continued into the 1990s and the new millennium. The redevelopment department next took aim at the Tivoli Theater on North Main Street. Its glory days as a movie theater and live-performance venue had ended in the 1960s, and the building became the Cinema Art adult movie theater. When it closed in the early 1990s, efforts were made to save the building, restore its historic appearance, and return it to use as a performing arts center. The community's lack of interest for the project and political leaders' opposition brought down the final curtain-- and the wrecking ball-- on the Tivoli and two adjacent buildings in 2005. A drug store was built on the site, and Mishawakans were left to grieve the loss of an irreplaceable jewel from the city's past.

On February 23, 2006, Bethel College's Wiekamp Center became the setting for the first visit of a President of the United States to Mishawaka. On board Air Force One, President George W. Bush flew with 2nd District U.S. Representative Chris Chocola into the South Bend

airport and then traveled to downtown South Bend's Marriott Hotel for a brief rest before continuing to Bethel College. President Bush was the featured speaker at a luncheon campaign fundraiser for Chocola. Crowds gathered along Logan Street to see the presidential motorcade arrive on the Bethel campus, where rigorous security measures were in place. Over five hundred contributors listened to Bush speak, and more than a thousand Bethel students watched the president's remarks through a live feed in the nearby Everest-Rohrer Chapel/Fine Arts Center. In a 30-minute speech that began at 12:30 p.m., President Bush praised Chocola, urged support for his re-election bid, and then spoke on national security. Acknowledging that he wished he did not have to talk about war, the president reminded the audience that the nation was still engaged in the War on Terror and fighting to support freedom and democracy in Iraq. Bush asserted his desire to keep the peace and duty to protect the country against terrorist attacks. He stated that the nation must be vigilant against lurking enemies and defended the administration's use of federal agents to monitor suspected Al Qaeda terrorists' phone calls. The president also spoke about economic policies, Medicare reforms, and his admiration for social entrepreneurship and faith-based initiatives.

The long history of Dodge Manufacturing concluded in the first decade of the new millennium. Rockwell acquired Dodge/Reliance in 1995 and shut down the Mishawaka plant's conveyor drives division in 1998. Atchison Casting Corporation bought the foundry in 2000, but it closed in 2006, leaving the sprawling Union Street plant vacant for the first time in 125 years. The foundry was the last vestige of Mishawaka's "Big 3" manufacturers, and its closure marked the end of an era in the city's history.

New construction and infrastructure projects stimulated the growth of Mishawaka's north and east sides during the 2000s.

In 2002, a Super Target store opened on East University Drive, and other commercial buildings soon followed, pushing the Grape-Main corridor east to Fir Road.

The Capital Avenue Expressway, which began in the mid-1980s, continued its extension north and south. In 2003, segments of the highway from Indiana 23 to Day Road opened, and the McKinley Highway to Jefferson Road section was completed in 2006. Motorists were now able to travel on four-lane, divided highway from Lincolnway East to the Indiana Toll Road. Other sections south of Lincolnway to the by-pass would follow in the next few years.

After twenty years of planning, the North Main Street underpass opened in 2008. The attractively designed and landscaped underpass ran from Broadway to Jefferson Boulevard. It was part of a larger improvement plan that made North Main have two lanes of traffic in each direction and a center turn lane all the way from the Main Street Bridge to McKinley Avenue.

In the latter half of the decade, two historically South Bend entities pulled up their stakes and made the move to Mishawaka's north side.

Schurz Communications, parent company of the *South Bend Tribune* and WSBT television and radio stations, opened an 85,000 sq. foot building on East Douglas Road in 2008. The facility served as headquarters for Schurz Communications, office space for some *Tribune* editors and reporters, and studios for WSBT television and four radio stations.

Just to the west on Douglas Road, the new St. Joseph Regional Medical Center was completed in 2009. Trinity Health, the hospital's parent company, had decided to close the St. Joseph Regional Medical Center campus near downtown South Bend and St. Joseph Hospital in downtown Mishawaka, consolidating their services in a \$355 million building set on 90 acres. The new hospital had 633,000 sq. feet, 254 private patient rooms, and a staff of 2,400. St. Joseph Regional Medical Center solidified Mishawaka's claim to being the area's leader in medical care.

After the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the United States was again at war in the Middle East, first in Afghanistan and later in Iraq. Military Humvees made at the A.M. General plant in Mishawaka played a vital role in U.S. and Allied forces carrying out their mission in difficult terrain. The war in Iraq resulted in a democracy that was at peace with its neighbors and did not harbor Islamic terrorists, but an insurgency kept American soldiers in the country for many years. Tech. Sgt. Ryan Balmer, a Mishawakan serving as an Air Force special agent, was killed in Kirkuk, Iraq, on June 5, 2007.

Mishawaka High's wrestling program brought home team state championships in 2008 and 2010. A perennial state finalist during the 2000s, the Cavemen were state runner-up in 2007, dropping a 31-18 championship match against Evansville Mater Dei. In 2008, Mishawaka entered the state tournament ranked third and advanced to the eight-team state finals held at Center Grove High School. The Cavemen defeated Perry Meridian, 29-24, and Merrillville, 30-22, to reach the championship round, a rematch against 12-time state champion Mater Dei. Mishawaka took the lead, 9-7, over the Wildcats after Tim Forte's 1-0 win at 160 lbs. The Cavemen clinched the state championship on Josh Harper's victory at 125 lbs. and soon were celebrating a 28-22 upset of Mater Dei. Mishawaka reached the state finals in 2009 but bowed out early after a narrow first-round loss, 31-30, to Indianapolis Cathedral. In 2010, Mishawaka was back with a vengeance, crushing opponents throughout the regular season and state tournament. The #1-ranked Cavemen returned to the state finals at Center Grove with a 28-0 record, dominated Crown Point, 45-19, and Perry Meridian, 41-15, and advanced to the championship match against Yorktown. Mishawaka clinched its second state title in three years after Danny Abu-shehab's win at 189 lbs. The Cavemen dominated the Tigers, 37-17, and staked their claim to being the greatest team Mishawaka High had ever fielded in any sport.

In 2007, Bethel College completed a new women's residence hall, later named Bridges Hall. The school purchased the Jefferson Mobile Home Park along Jefferson Boulevard in 2005 and the adjacent Princess City Mobile Home Park in 2008. These acquisitions enabled the previously landlocked college to expand its campus and meet future needs. Bethel reached a peak enrollment of 2,163 in the fall of 2009.

Mishawaka's population continued to grow during the 2000s but at a slower rate than in previous decades. The city had 48,252 residents in the 2010 census, a 3.6% increase during the decade.

The 2010s began with a major reorganization involving three Mishawaka schools. In September 2010, Kevin C. Rhoades, bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, announced that three Catholic schools in Mishawaka-- St. Bavo, St. Joseph, and St. Monica-- would be consolidated into one Mishawaka Catholic School with three campuses, using the parishes' existing school buildings. Bishop Rhoades and the diocese mandated the consolidation due to declining enrollment and financial challenges at the three schools and as a way to improve the academic offerings available for students, especially at the junior high level. After a year of preparation and staff changes, Mishawaka Catholic School opened in the fall of 2011. Kindergarten through second grade students were at the St. Bavo campus, third through fifth grades used the St. Joseph School building, and sixth through eighth graders attended the St. Monica campus. Mishawaka Catholic's opening enrollment was 370 students, and the school adopted "Saints" as its nickname.

The Capital Avenue Expressway was finally completed in 2012-13. The section of highway from Twelfth Street to the St. Joseph Valley Parkway (U.S. 20 by-pass) opened in 2012, and the Capital Avenue railroad underpass was completed the following year. In the early

twentieth century, Capital Avenue was a two-lane street on the edge of town, running only a mile, from Lincolnway to Twelfth Street, before continuing south as rural Elm Road. The Capital Avenue Expressway changed all that, making an eight-mile, divided highway that was one of the busiest thoroughfares in the county.

Finishing the underpass enabled Mishawaka to close Fire Station #4, built in 1929 at the southeast corner of Brook and Lincolnway East, and replace it with a new fire station on Harrison Road adjacent to Hums Park. The station housed the fire department's administrative offices and included a community meeting room.

At the far north end of the Capital Avenue Expressway, several projects pushed outward the far northeast edge of Mishawaka. In 2015, the City of Mishawaka completed construction of Beacon Parkway, a 4,000-foot-long street connecting Fir Road, Capital Avenue, and the Indiana Toll Road's Mishawaka/Granger interchange. Beacon Parkway served as another entry into the city and facilitated use of land on either side of the street for future commercial buildings.

Beacon Health and Fitness, a 74,000 sq. foot facility, opened in 2016 at the southwest corner of Beacon Parkway and Capital Avenue, providing fitness, sports medicine, and physical therapy services. In 2019, Granger Beacon Hospital, the region's first small acute-care hospital, opened on the north side of Beacon Parkway across from the health and fitness center. The hospital offered a 16-bed emergency department, eight in-patient beds, and diagnostic services.

Another important addition to the medical services available on the north side of Mishawaka was the St. Joseph County V.A. Clinic, which opened in 2017, replacing the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in downtown South Bend. The new 89,000-sq. foot outpatient clinic was built on Trinity Place, east of St. Joseph Regional Medical Center, despite pressure from South Bend officials to keep the clinic in their city. The clinic was named in

memory of Congresswoman Jackie Walorski in 2022.

During the 2010s, downtown Mishawaka and its environs also saw significant new development.

In 2013, Center for Hospice Care opened a two-story building at the east end of Central Park. It housed the organization's counseling services and administrative offices, and two nearby existing buildings were also remodeled for a palliative care center and guest house. In 2019, the Hospice campus was completed when the 12-bed Ernestine M. Raclin House in-patient center opened to the east of the office building. Each patient room in the facility looked upon the St. Joseph River and the Central Park Dam.

Neighboring Central Park was undergoing the biggest transformation since the park's creation. In addition to the Riverwalk extending the entire length of the park, past the Center for Hospice campus, and all the way to Cedar Street, new amenities were added in 2015, including a spray pad, playground and climbing equipment, walking path, five picnic pavilions, and a comfort station. The fieldstone used on the new buildings and gateway entrance off Mishawaka Avenue highlighted Central Park's W.P.A. origins and complemented Mishawaka's other historic parks, which feature stone so prominently. The new and improved Central Park immediately became the city's most popular park and a destination for visitors from throughout the area.

Two blocks to the northwest, the River Rock apartment building was constructed on most of the block bounded by West Mishawaka Avenue and Elizabeth, West Grove, and North Main Streets. The 5-story building opened in 2016 and included 73 apartment units and space for several retail tenants. The apartments facing south had attractive views of the river, Beutter Park, and downtown. River Rock became an important new feature of the Mishawaka skyline for users of the Riverwalk and drivers crossing the Main Street Bridge.

Soon after River Rock opened, an even larger project began, at last, to fill some of the vacant land left by Uniroyal's demolition years before. Aided by economic development funds from the state, construction of The Mill at Ironworks Plaza began in 2017 and was completed two years later. The four-story building featured 232 high-end apartment units, Mishawaka's first parking garage, and 13,000 sq. feet of commercial space on the structure's east end. The Mill occupied two city blocks and, like River Rock, offered vistas of Beutter Park and the river.

High school athletes from Mishawaka achieved historic levels of success during this decade.

Anna Rohrer became the greatest athlete ever to hail from the Princess City. She was born in Mishawaka and made her mark in distance running events at Mishawaka High School. An injury caused Rohrer to miss her freshman cross country season in 2011, but she qualified for the state track meet in the 3,200 meters the following spring. As a sophomore, Anna dominated the local cross country scene and won the state championship, setting a state-meet record with a time of 17:13.2 and beating the defending state champion by almost 16 seconds. Rohrer went on to win the 2012 Foot Locker cross country national championship and the 3,200-meter state title in 2013. After an injury sidelined her for the 2013 cross country season, Anna came back in the spring and successfully defended her 3,200-meter state championship and won the New Balance 5,000 meter outdoor national title in 2014. During her senior year, Rohrer won everything in sight, including the cross country state meet with a record time, her second Foot Locker national championship in cross country, and state championships in both the 1,600 meters and 3,200 meters. She was named Gatorade National Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year and set a national high school record of 16:10.79 in the 5,000 meters at the New Balance indoor track and field meet. Rohrer concluded her high school career with an astounding six state championships

and four national championships.

The Marian High boys' and girls' soccer teams brought home three Class A state titles between 2012 and 2016. The 2012 girls' soccer team went 11-4-2 during the regular season, dominated John Glenn, 7-0, to win the sectional championship, defeated Westview, 5-0, for the regional, and was victorious over Fort Wayne Luers, 4-1, for the semi-state title. In a rematch of the 2011 state championship match that Marian lost, the Knights faced Providence. Goals by D.J. Veldman and Shannon Hendricks led the Knights to a better outcome, defeating the Pioneers, 2-0, for Marian's first soccer state championship. In 2015, it was the boys' turn to bring home the hardware. The Knights posted a 13-2 regular season record before defeating LaVille, 4-0, for the sectional title, crushing Rensselaer Central, 6-0, to win the regional championship, and beating Fort Wayne Blackhawk Christian, 5-0, to take the semi-state. In the state championship match against Indianapolis Cardinal Ritter, the Knights seized a 2-0 lead on Augustin Hartnagel and Oscar Tavarez's first-half goals. Jordan Morris scored a third goal in the second half, and Marian won the championship, 3-0, over the Raiders. In 2016, the Knights went 10-5 during the regular season, dominated Bethany Christian, 5-0, to win the sectional, beat North White, 3-1, to take the regional title, and held off Heritage Christian, 4-1, for the semi-state championship. In the state title match against Providence, Marian scored twice in the first half on goals by Roberto Ontiveros and Jordan Morris. In the second half, the Knights pulled away on Morris's second goal of the day, and Johnathan Tavarez gave Marian the final 4-0 advantage. Marian won the state championship with a stifling defense, holding the Pioneers to just eight shots on goal the entire match.

The national spotlight was on Mishawaka for a week in August 2018 as Habitat for Humanity and the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project built 23 single-family homes in a

new subdivision northwest of the intersection of North Byrkit Avenue and Jefferson Boulevard. For 33 years, Mishawaka architect LeRoy Troyer had worked with former President Carter, the First Lady, and Habitat for Humanity building projects throughout North America. Mayor Dave Wood had also been a long-time participant in Habitat builds. Troyer and Wood were instrumental in bringing the Carter Work Project to Mishawaka, resulting in millions of dollars being invested in affordable, owner-occupied homes on a site that was once North Side Little League. For several days, the Carters and hundreds of volunteers, including celebrities like Garth Brooks, Trisha Yearwood, and David Letterman, worked together to build homes for future residents of Mishawaka. In the years since, other houses have been built in the subdivision, now known as The Fields at Highland, and lots are available for dozens more in the new neighborhood.

In early 2019, Liberty Mutual Insurance announced that it would be closing its downtown Mishawaka office. Two-hundred-thirty of its call center employees would be permanently working from home, and the other 240 workers would eventually be relocated. While the loss of Liberty Mutual would mean fewer patrons of downtown businesses, it also presented an extraordinary opportunity. Mishawaka had been considering constructing a new City Hall in the coming years, the Mishawaka Utilities office on Church Street was in desperate need of replacement, and the police station required millions of dollars in repairs and upgrades. The solution to these problems was self-evident: the City of Mishawaka could purchase the Liberty Mutual building, carry out a complete renovation, and move City Hall, the utilities, and the police all under one roof. The old City Hall building would be retained and given a new use compatible with its neighborhood, the utilities building would be demolished, and the police station would be put up for sale and either adaptively reused or razed in favor of new

construction. Beginning in 2019, Mishawaka carried out one of the largest municipal engineering projects in the city's history, modifying the former Liberty Mutual's exterior appearance and completely reworking its interior to meet the needs of city departments for decades to come. The new City Hall opened in phases during the fall of 2022.

In recognition of its many graduate degree programs, Bethel College became Bethel University in May 2019. The school is ranked as a "Top Tier Midwestern College" by *U.S. News & World Report* and is included on the College Consensus list of "Best Christian Colleges & Universities" and *Money Magazine's* "Best Colleges for Your Money" list. For 75 years, students from throughout the region and around the world have come to this Mishawaka school to grow their faith and to earn a college degree.

During the 2010s, Mishawaka experienced a healthy 5.8% population growth and reached another demographic milestone in the 2020 U.S. Census: 51,063 residents.

Amidst the suffering and inconvenience resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic, the City of Mishawaka pressed on with the City Hall project and several park improvements. The Soldiers Monument in Battell Park was removed after Memorial Day 2019, taken to a restoration facility in Ohio, and returned before Memorial Day 2020. Meanwhile, a new base and Veterans Plaza were constructed west of the monument's old location. The restored and internally reinforced Soldiers Monument was installed in time for its rededication on Memorial Day. The Mayor's Youth Advisory Council took the lead in redesigning Hums Park, which reopened as Heroes Park in 2021. Some new features of the park included a running trail, Ninja training course, and basketball court with glass backboards and permanent seating. Each element of the park was named to honor local heroes, such as coaches and athletes like Anna Rohrer and Devin Cannady, an NBA player who grew up in Reverewood. Beutter Park was the scene of much activity in the

pandemic years. The Ball-Band Biergarten opened in 2020 and included a building with restrooms and a window where vendors could sell food and drinks and a seating area with tables. In 2021, Founders Circle was installed at the east end of Beutter Park. The monument featured bronze plaques honoring significant Mishawakans of the nineteenth century surrounding a Perkins wind mill. At the opposite end of Beutter Park, a two-story events center and café building and an ice-skating ribbon were completed in time for use in the winter of 2022-23. With The Mill and these facilities in Beutter Park, the Ironworks Plaza had become the vibrant heart of downtown Mishawaka.

Even with all this new construction, future challenges and needs remained in the central business district and nearby areas. Several large parcels of land to the east, south, and west of The Mill and Beutter Park were still awaiting redevelopment. City officials had spent decades trying to attract an upscale hotel to the riverfront but to no avail. The 100 Center was an even bigger concern. While some of its buildings were occupied and prospering, the main part of the former brewery was vacant, practically abandoned, and deteriorating. In 2021, Indiana Landmarks placed the former Kamm & Schellinger Brewery on its 10 Most Endangered Landmarks List, a dubious distinction that highlighted the sad state of the historic structures. Most of the commercial buildings in downtown were occupied, but some tenants struggled to remain in business. From 1960-2020, more than half the structures within a five-block radius of the Main-Lincoln Way intersection had been demolished, so preserving the remaining historic buildings in the city center was an ongoing concern. In 2022, the City of Mishawaka announced plans to purchase most of the former Dodge Manufacturing buildings along Union Street, clear the site, and redevelop it. Part of the multi-year project would involve extending Seventh Street east to Laurel Street and using some of the Dodge property to improve facilities at Central Fire

Station and the nearby Central Services Building.

Throughout Mishawaka's 190-year history, the demographics and racial make-up of its citizens have changed. What once was an almost entirely white community has grown more racially diverse, especially in the twenty-first century. The 2020 U.S. Census offers a glimpse into who Mishawakans are today. Non-Hispanic whites comprise 76.7% of the city's population, blacks 9.2%, Hispanics 6.9%, Asians 2.2%, Native Americans .9%, and 6.0% have two or more races. Foreign-born Mishawakans are 5.6% of the population, 7.2% of households speak primarily a language other than English at home, and 2,601 military veterans live in the city. Only 49.5% of Mishawaka's housing units are owner-occupied, indicative of the growing presence of rental properties and the many apartments throughout the city. For Mishawakans age 25 and over, 89.3% have a high school diploma, and 25.1% have earned a college degree. Mishawaka has a poverty rate of 17.2%. The city covers 17.87 sq. miles, making for a population density of 2,856.8 per sq. mile.

These statistics give a glimpse into who the residents of Mishawaka are today. In the future, Mishawaka's citizens may be even more diverse, and the places where they live, work, worship, learn, and play will continue to change. What must endure, though, are Mishawakans' loyalty, pride, and love for their city. Vincent Brunner concluded the final essay of *Mishawaka, Its Rise and Progress* by writing, "Each and every good citizen who has the welfare of our city at heart will swear allegiance to Mishawaka." Across the decades, Brunner's words speak to new generations for whom Mishawaka is home.

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