



GRANT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2013

**FEBRUARY 20, 2013
Marion Public Library
Room B, 7 p.m.**

**Program: Linda Taylor,
Services For The Visually And
Hearing Impaired**

Linda Taylor has been the Director of the agency for 12 years. She started work in September, 2000 after having been an Activity Director at the Emily Flinn Home. Her subject for our meeting will be the history of The Services for the Visually and Hearing Impaired.

Linda lives in Van Buren with her husband and 5 Alpacas; her husband gave them to her for Christmas...a very cool gift.

COMING SOON

FEBRUARY 28: Photograph Exhibit of the Marion homes built by Samuel Plato. Location, Forrest Room at library, 6 p.m. Presentation by Bill Munn.

MARCH 20: GCHS Meeting, Bill Munn, Speaker

APRIL 17: Annual Meeting with special guest, Mark Twain.

MARION, "QUEEN CITY" OF THE GAS BELT...

**...OR, MARION, CITY OF
FACTORIES?**

Thanks to George L. Mason, an extravagant boomer and promoter, Marion was both in the late 1800's.

Prior to finding natural gas, Grant County was an agricultural society. After finding natural gas, the eyes of industry and big time promoters were on Grant County. Marion sat at the center of the Gas Belt, close to the largest markers for industry in the Mid-west and close to coal and oil-an ideal place for industrialists to invest. Following are some of the factories that came to Marion.

WESTERMAN ROLLING MILL, built an imposing complex in 1891 to create sheet metal.

CATON GLASS, 1890, manufactured a variety of goods, inc. bar ware, drug sundries, tableware and glass novelties.

Gray and Dodds purchased land north of the Mississenewa River and formed the suburb of North Marion in 1887. Within two years, a number of factories had set up shop, including,

**MARION FLINT GLASS COMPANY,
MARION WINDOW COMPANY,
WESTERN GLASS COMPANY,
MARION HANDLE WORKS,
MARION PAPER COMPANY.**

The Western Glass Company never requested cash, gas or land in order to relocate to Gray and Dodds's North Marion's suburb. This unsubsidized development, however, was the exception rather than the rule.

MARION FRUIT JAR AND BOTTLE WORKS, located approximately three miles south of the town center, became the factory suburb of South Marion in 1888. Manufacturing fruit jars, bottles and oil cans, The company was a rival to Ball Brothers of Muncie.

The above information was taken from the booklet.

THE GAS BOOM OF EAST CENTRAL INDIANA BY
James A. Glass and David Kohrman

Their acknowledgments included Ball State, IN State Library, several local libraries, Archives & Special Collections from Ball State and The Marion Leader, 1893. Kay Dougherty