

Program: Touring Indiana

Speaker: Mark Newman

Introduced by: Joline Ohlmar

Attendance: 127

Guests: Larry Sievers, Donna Cunningham, Mrs. Mestichelli

Scribe: Dick Carter

Editor: Joe Abella

Our speaker today, Mark Newman, is the Executive Director of the Indiana Office of Tourism Development. His talk about many of the tourist destinations in Indiana helped us to remember and even learn about a variety of familiar experiences we have enjoyed over years of living in Indiana. Many of these sites are not as well known, but are very interesting to many types of tourists. It is important to reach the individual psyche of a range of visitors to enable them to seek out and enjoy the thrills of discovery awaiting them at many great attractions found within Indiana. Jon McLaughlin wrote a song where he properly states that, "Every corner has a story", "fireflies and grapevines decorate the landscape", "miles of green goes rolling on and on", and "the light is on for all!"

Four major points of focus trigger the current Indiana visitor program: 1. History and Evolution of Our Heritage, 2. Outdoor Recreation and Sports, 3. Agriculture and Culinary, and 4. Arts and Culture. These various developing stories connect well with many people. For expanded information please see the tourism website located at: <https://visitindiana.com/>

Here are some of the glimpses that Mark provided for us: Abraham Lincoln's formative years were influenced during his boyhood transition to adult life, from age 7 to 21 years while living in Indiana. Columbus is the "Mecca of Architecture" for visitors around the world. French Lick and West Baden are areas where the past has been reconstructed for great memories and new experiences. Posey County provides a look at the Utopian Vision that was prevalent in New Harmony. It provided places to trigger critical renewal for visitors and residents. Grand Central Station was an important center for a major portion of the Underground Railroad where abolitionists helped to get slaves to new and safer areas of freedom. Morocco has 1100 acres being transformed to allow a growing herd of bison to exist as they did centuries ago. Corydon is the birthplace of our statehood. Although the state legislature recently did not adopt Sugar Cream Pie as the state pie, "Farm to Table" is an important ingredient for tourism. Gastronomic experiences abound in many localities. Indiana is the second largest producer of ice cream in the USA. Fair Oaks Farm, a leader in agri-tourism has over 40,000 dairy cows, with an average of 80 calves being born every day. Dairy and ice cream are major products being produced there. They are now planning to add a hotel there for visitors.

There are 19 various Trails listed for gastronomic experiences in Indiana. Breaded pork tenderloins started very early in the 1900s at Nick's in downtown Huntington. Up the road towards Fort Wayne, stop at Roanoke for a visit to the Joseph Decuis American Restaurant, which is listed as one of the top 50 dining spots in America. Our soil and climate provides great opportunities for over 80 wine makers in Indiana. Some are seventh generation producers. There are over 120 craft breweries and 14 plus craft distillers here. Forty percent of the Gummy Bears in the US are produced by Albanese Confectionery in Merrillville. Many caves with systems of hundreds of miles are available to explore. Our northern coastal region on Lake Michigan is very popular. We have numerous state parks and trail areas. Hoop's Heaven is available for those interested in exploring our "basketball mania" and is the gym used for filming the movie, "Hoosiers".

Thank you to Mr. Newman for a great talk and happy touring to all Sciencetech members!



Mark Newman