

Responses to Mickey Mouse Hill

I arrived in EL as a 5th grader in 1955 and lived on Melrose St. so went to the old Marble school. Mickey Mouse Hill was the place to go sledding even in 1955 so the name has been around a long, long time. Most people don't know that at the bottom of the hill (West side) was a small marsh (pond) area and in the spring time we would go and collect tad poles from those waters. That old trolley line (Inter Urban Train) was always a great summer adventure for us kids as we headed out to the old dump to look for interesting things like old TV sets and collect the tubes. Along the way we would cut off some of the dried vines from along the path and try smoking them. If you were lucky you even found a metal spike from the old railroad ties. Our boy scout troop from Marble even took an occasional hike down that old trolley line path doing some scout training along the way. EL was a great place to grow up with nearby woods for forts and the university for summer time bike riding and just doing fun stuff. Thanks for the memories of Mickey Mouse Hill.

-Don Clugston

Great great memories. In about 1948, I moved into a house on Ridgewood Drive, not too far from the hill. Some of my fondest early memories (around 1951) were watching the coal being shoveled into the basement of my grade school (the old Marble School) and sledding on Mickey Mouse Hill. So, I know the name dates to at least around that time or earlier. I also played around the old rail track area. However, I remembered it being called the "old ann urban". Not sure if that was a name or just something we kids called it. There used to be a gravelly area near the pond and a number of us found some arrow heads near the pond. I also remember a proliferation of snake holes near the pond that regurgitated small garter snakes in the early spring. I hate to admit it, but I still have my "racing sled" that I used on Mickey Mouse (it stands rusting in my cottage, having not been used for about 59 years!!!!).

What a great time and place to have grown up. I hope you all are remaining healthy and safe.

-Geoff Hertel

Very interesting discussion. I grew up in the Bailey neighborhood. Interestingly, I have no recollection of sledding on Mickey Mouse Hill. My two kids were raised in Bailey. They and my grandchildren used the hill. What I do remember was sledding on a path in the woods where the high school and library were eventually built. The path led from the eventual high school site down to Abbot road. The likelihood of hitting a tree was significant. The original high school football field (later Hannah middle school) was across the street. When we were older a parent would drop us off at Groesbeck golf course in Lansing. There was a large bowl area with steep drop offs that was pretty exciting. I think I will investigate to see if that area is still used in the winter sledding.

-Rick Simonds