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Mary Beth Beiersdorf
Karen Kurth
Chris Powers

Meredith Wachholz
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Acknowledgements

Our gratitude to the many people who helped support and assist the effort to replace the marker: Irwin Blumensaadt (Chicago Department of Transportation), Elizabeth Kelley (Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs), Margaret Schlesinger (Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs), Brian Steele (Chicago Department of Transportation), and Michelle Woods (Chicago Department of Transportation).

Families Represented

Aanstad	Klucina	Pfeiffer	Schlentz
Dolejs	Manikowski	Pisano	Schultz
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Hajak	Mietlicka	Rabe	Sweeney
Holtz	Nelson	Rivers	Vileta
Jeffers	Ness		

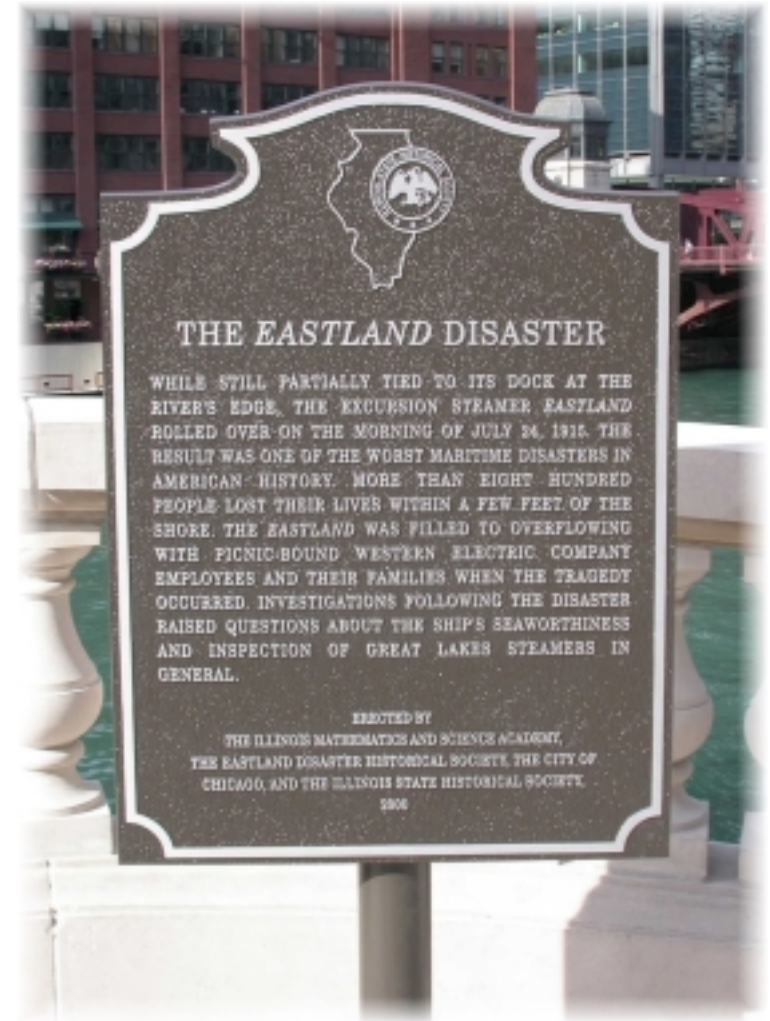
States Represented

Colorado	Illinois	Minnesota
Florida	Indiana	Tennessee



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Eastland Disaster Historical Marker Rededication and 88th Anniversary Commemoration



**Thursday, July 24, 2003
Chicago, Illinois**

Guest Speakers – Riverside Ceremony

Ted Wachholz, President
Eastland Disaster Historical Society

Connie Hatcher, Vice President for Educational Programs and Services
Illinois Mathematics & Science Academy

David Scott, President
Illinois State Historical Society

Russell Lewis, Andrew W. Mellon Director for Collections and Research
Chicago Historical Society

Miguel d'Escoto, Commissioner
Chicago Department of Transportation

Barbara Decker Wachholz, Vice President
Eastland Disaster Historical Society

Susan Decker, Vice President
Eastland Disaster Historical Society

Guest Speakers – Luncheon Reception

Susan Decker, Vice President
Eastland Disaster Historical Society

Bill Braden, Chief Executive Officer
American Red Cross of Greater Chicago

Ken Little, Historian and Director
Fire Museum of Greater Chicago

Chief Petty Officer Clifford Berutti
United States Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office Chicago

Barbara Decker Wachholz, Vice President (vocal performance)
Eastland Disaster Historical Society

John Kociolko, Assessor and Historian
Town of Cicero (for Lucent Technologies/Western Electric)

Georgiana Becker, Treasurer
Historical Society of Cicero

Bob Lopatin, Chief Operating Officer and Director of Development
Friedman Properties (for Reid Murdoch Center)

Jay Bonansinga, Author

Historical Marker

The marker reads: "While still partially tied to its dock at the river's edge, the excursion steamer *Eastland* rolled over on the morning of July 24, 1915. The result was one of the worst maritime disasters in American history. More than eight hundred people lost their lives within a few feet of the shore. The *Eastland* was filled to overflowing with picnic bound Western Electric Company employees and their families when the tragedy occurred. Investigations following the disaster raised questions about the ship's seaworthiness and inspection of Great Lakes steamers in general."

[Note: The original marker was dedicated on June 4, 1989. The marker resulted from the efforts of Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy teachers Bernard Hollister and Bill Stepien and their students.]



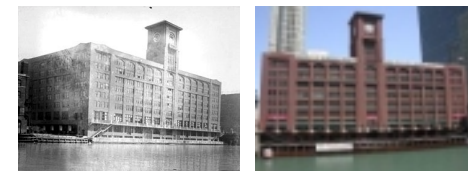
[Photos, from left: June 4, 1989 dedication (courtesy Louis Benes); 1999; April 2000; July 2003]

Reid Murdoch Center

The Reid Murdoch Center, a massive 400,000 square foot structure fronting the Chicago River between LaSalle & Clark Streets, was built as a central food processing plant for Reid, Murdoch & Company, whose name remains part of the riverfront facade. Designed by George C. Nimmons of Chicago (a student of Daniel Burnham), the building was one of the first structures to be erected (in 1913) in full accordance with Burnham's vision that the Chicago River should serve the City much as the Seine serves Paris or the Thames serves London. It is on the National Register of Historic Places and is already a Chicago landmark for those reasons as well as its architectural integrity.

Crowning the building was, and remains, its most distinguishing feature and frequent subject of riverfront photographers – a clock tower with four massive internally illuminated translucent glass faces. The tower, rather than being located over its then Clark Street showroom entry or its LaSalle Street freight-loading areas, was directly in the middle of the structure on the riverfront facade.

Today, the Reid Murdoch Center is owned/managed by Friedman Properties.



[Photos: left, 1914 (courtesy Chicago Historical Society); right, 2003]

