

NEW BREMEN NEWS

OF THE TINLEY PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Working On The Future Of Our Past

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Mary Ann Marino and Brad L. Bettenhausen, Editors

Editorial Staff: Jeanne Condon

Miller's Corner

*As told by June Miller Homerding to Jeanne Costa
and edited by Brad Bettenhausen*

Martin Miller was born on October 1, 1889 and came to the United States from Aalborg Denmark arriving in New York on March 31, 1911. Margaret Mathilda Johnson was born on September 10, 1899 in Vastervik, Sweden and also arrived in the United States in 1911. They were married on April 8, 1916.

Prior to moving to Tinley Park, Martin worked for his brother Louis in Chicago as a truck driver. His brother had a scavenger business and they would pickup cinders from apartment buildings. They did not have a lift on the truck so they would lift the containers of cinders on their backs and climb on a ladder to unload them in the back of the truck. This is just one example of what one did to try and make ends meet during the Depression.

The Miller family came to Tinley Park in 1929. The family consisted of Martin and Margaret Miller; Margaret's mother Amanda Johnson, and the Miller's three daughters, Doris, Lorraine, and June.

Their first home was located on 179th and Sayre. It was purchased from Elmore Realty and if you purchased a home from Elmore at that time you would also get a number of baby chicks. That was one of Grover Elmore's big marketing strategies at that time to get people to move to Tinley Park. It allowed the family to add to the household income by selling eggs and chickens. Martin Miller's brother Christ Miller purchased some land across from the Miller home too, and put in a fruit orchard.

The Depression was hard on many people. They lost their homes, savings, farms and the Miller Family did not escape the harshness of those times and unfortunately lost their home.

The Miller family purchase five acres of vacant land at the Southeast corner of 183rd Street and Oak Park Avenue from George and Hilda Kampe. The family lived in their garage that they were able to bring with them when they lost their home. The Miller girls would have to go across the street to the Kampe's (who lived on the Southwest corner) to fill up containers so that the family had water.

One of the proudest moments of their lives was when Martin, Margaret, and her mother Amanda took their oaths to become citizens of the United States in 1936. Martin and Margaret did not have it easy, but they built a good life for themselves and their family in the United States through hard work, perseverance, love of family and love of Country.

As time went on Martin and Margaret opened a gas station and later expanded to include a tavern and restaurant that became known as Miller's Corner. The year was 1939 and their business consisted of a bar that had eight or ten bar stools and eight tables and chairs.



Miller's Corner (Continued).....



During the War it was hard to get different materials to build, but Martin and Margaret managed to enlarge the business to roughly what it is today. It had a "U" shape bar and they extended the restaurant portion to hold more tables and chairs, and added three Shuffleboard Courts for the patrons.

Margaret was involved in many business and social activities. She was the Oracle of the local chapter of the Royal Neighbors of America and was later promoted to a District Deputy where she sold life insurance. She also sold shrubs, and various types of trees while helping her husband with their tavern and restaurant business.

For those of you that remember those days, I am sure you cannot forget the parrot that was sitting in her cage in the bar. The bar acquired the parrot when Martin's brother Christ found it is a factory in which he worked. He gave it to his sister Gundhild. But soon, Doris slipped the bird out of her aunt's house and took the parrot (aptly named "Polly") home. Polly learned quite a bit of "colorful" language since patrons would play pool near her cage. When the business was sold, Doris and her family continued to keep the parrot until she and her husband Alvin Andres retired to Florida. The bird then moved in with June, until the parrot's death.

On February 6th, 1955 Margaret Miller was walking on 183rd Street towards Miller's Corner from the Tinley Park Bowling Alley and was killed. Only two months later, on April 11th, 1955 Martin passed away from a broken heart.

The Miller's Corner business was then run by Doris, Lorraine, and June. It was a very hard time with their parent's deaths occurring so close together. They all had families but the business was kept going until the business was rented to June's brother-in-law Alvin Andres and his wife Doris. A year later it was sold to Doris's brother-in-law John Andres and his wife. The building, located on the corner of 183rd Street and Oak Park Avenue, is now known as Dendrino's. What the Miller's built has stood the test of time.



Doris Miller married Alvin Andres whose family was one of the early settlers in the Tinley Park area. Doris was a licensed beautician and had one of the first beauty shops in Tinley Park which was located upstairs from Hirsch's Funeral Home on Oak Park Avenue across and down the street from Teehan's Tap. They had three daughters, Judith (Don Dandurand), Alice (Gardner), and Jeanne (Anthony Costa). Alvin worked at various places during the Depression, including tending bar at the Tinley Park Bowling Alley, and Wyman and Gordon in Harvey.

Alvin and Doris began their journey into school transportation by driving children from the Kirby School District 140 in the family station wagon. The School District offered them a contract, and they had to buy a bus as the District had grown and there were more children to transport to school. They then received a contract from School District 159 so they again expanded their business. They ultimately ended up having a total of three buses and three drivers, Alvin, Doris and, Joe Medrano. Prior to their deaths, Alvin (2004) and Doris (1988) had lived in Tinley Park, Sarasota and Leesburg, Florida, and Manteno, Illinois.

Miller's Corner (Continued).....

Lorraine Miller graduated from Thornton Township High School and held a job as secretary in an insurance company in Chicago. Lorraine married a Gilbert Hires from Oak Forest. While he served in the South Pacific during WWII, she assisted her parents with the responsibilities of running Miller's Corner along with her sisters. Lorraine and Gilbert had five children, Martin (Linda), Dennis, Gilbert (Beverly), Peggy (Doug Lee), and Beverly (Scott Littleworth). After the War, Gilbert worked at Wyman and Gordon in Harvey along with his brother-in-law Alvin Andres. Lorraine and Gilbert decided to head West. They packed up and moved to Costa Mesa, California. Gilbert had no employment waiting for him when he, Lorraine, and their five children arrived in California. While Lorraine raised the children, Gilbert worked his way up from being a building worker to the position of Superintendent in a local school district. When they retired, they moved to Sun City, California. After Gilbert's death, Lorraine stayed in Sun City until she moved in with her daughter and family. Lorraine passed away in April 2012 at the age of 89 years old.



June Miller married Robert Homerding in 1947 and had two daughters, Margaret Ann (Marvin Mitchell) and Diane (Tom Gawley). Margaret Ann Mitchell passed away in 2010. She and her husband had three children and have two grandchildren. Tom and Diane have one daughter. Of the three Miller sister, June remained in Tinley Park the longest, but she has since moved in with her daughter Diane and family.

After her high school graduation, June tried several job opportunities but she liked working with her parents the best. Later on in life, June and her husband Bob opened a restaurant in Tinley Park on Oak Park Avenue called Homerding's Kitchen. The business was aptly named since it was located in a converted house. The building would later be home to the Colony Steakhouse and Wheatfield Restaurant, but has since been demolished. June and Bob were well known for their delicious food whether you dined in the restaurant, went to the Friday Fish Fry, or were guests of an event catered by them. Their trademark dish was their "Fried Chicken", and you would have to search far and wide to find anyone who cooked it better. After Bob passed away, June continued to remain busy running the catering business, and holding the Fish Fry every Friday at the American Legion Hall in Tinley Park.

Tinley Park has always been a wonderful place to live. By today's standards, there was not much in the way of entertainment in the early years of Tinley Park. There was skating at Saenger Hall and a movie on the Grainery once in awhile. It was hard for the Miller girls to get there as they lived out of town. It is hard to believe that 183rd Street and Oak Park Avenue was once far south of town! When lucky enough to get into town, they would stop at Goebel's Pop Factory to have a soda, and shop at Vogt's Store, or do grocery shopping at Funk's Grocery Store. A lot of great memories.



A "Happy" Time!.....



Roll out the barrel.....let's have a barrel of fun - and we did! You could almost hear the music and laughter all the way across town on Wednesday, April 24th at the Tinley Park Historical Society, when we were honored to receive a visit and donation from our old time friend, Norman "Happy" Bettenhausen, an accomplished accordion player. Happy graciously donated the first accordion he purchased back in the late 1940s. It is a Hohner accordion, and in great condition - especially considering all the tunes that have been played on it. He not only honored us with this wonderful instrument, complete with original case, but provided us with a photo of his original band which also included his son Leroy.

For those who might remember, Happy used to play at Saenger Hall for dances, wedding receptions, parties, etc. He was the music man of the day!

As we were reminiscing, we asked if he would play us a song, and he did, a polka, followed by "My Wild Irish Rose", and a few others. What fun we had! We could hardly resist the temptation to polka around the room.

We cherish this wonderful treasure, and will find a special place to display it!

Thank you Happy and Dorothy for thinking of the Tinley Park Historical Society. We are truly honored!

"One with houses built on it"...

By Mary Ann Marino and Brad Bettenhausen

When we think of a subdivision, we often think of sprawling mini-communities, with well thought-out streets, parks, schools, and often times other amenities such as shopping or other commercial areas. According to the online Merriam-Webster Dictionary, a subdivision is "a tract of land surveyed and divided into lots for purposes of sale; especially: one with houses built on it." In general real estate terms, subdivision is both the act of dividing land into pieces that are easier to sell or otherwise develop, usually via a plat; and the resulting group of lots that made up the former larger piece of land. Subdivisions will include dedicating areas for streets and alleyways, if they were required or desired, and may also designate certain parcels for parks, schools, churches, detention ponds, etc.

Any community, Tinley Park included, is made up of numerous subdivisions, taking large tracts of land and creating smaller lots for building purposes. The origins of Tinley Park that we know today began with the 1853 plat of subdivision for the "Village of Bremen" which covered approximately 95 acres of land lying east of present day Oak Park Avenue (then Batchelor Grove Road). The Village of Bremen was divided into 16 blocks of varying shapes and sizes and created 12 new streets. The plan included dedicating an area adjacent to the Chicago Rock Island and Pacific Railroad for the "Station Ground" which included a depot and other rail related commercial activities, as well as an area for a public market. The five blocks closest to the railroad were divided into 51 smaller lots, obviously expecting that these properties would be the first ones to develop for both residential and commercial purposes, which is what ultimately occurred. The layout of the subdivision was mostly in a grid pattern of rectangular blocks and straight streets, with the exception of a few streets placed at an angle to parallel the path of the railroad (North Street, South Street, and Hickory Street), and one street that paralleled a drainage ditch (Graben Strasse; or Ditch Street; now 67th Avenue) that ran in a northeasterly direction toward present day Midlothian Creek (Most of Midlothian Creek through the heart of Tinley Park originated as a dug drainage ditch as part of the systems developed and constructed by the various Township drainage districts that existed in an earlier time primarily to improve lands for farming purposes and provide for early flood control by draining excess water - the Union Drainage Districts - more about their important contributions in a later issue.)

Following the initial Village of Bremen subdivision, the area of our small farm community continued to expand slowly with a series of small subdivisions periodically added like building blocks adjacent to the Village of Bremen as the core nucleus. Most of these subdivisions continued to follow the standard rectangular grid system laying out streets in horizontal and vertical straight lines. Little concern was given in the early days for setting aside open spaces for schools, parks, or for storm water detention.

As the Country was entering the Great Depression, the Village saw its first large scale developer ambitiously expanding home building activities in the area and Tinley Park in particular. The developer was Grover C. Elmore and his Elmore Real Estate Improvement Company. Between 1928 and 1930, he acquired and subdivided approximately 540 acres of Bremen Township farmland near and adjacent to Tinley Park into four large lot housing developments which included his Harlem Avenue Estates (Sayre Avenue), Oak Park Avenue Estates (New England Avenue), Tinley Park Estates (175th Street), and Ridgeland Avenue Estates (Highland Avenue). While several of these subdivisions were originally outside the official Tinley Park village limits, the Village did not see any developers planning such large quantities of land for housing again until into the 1970s and 1980s including the Brementowne Total Living Community discussed later.



Collectively, he marketed the four Tinley Park "Estate" subdivision properties (each lot being a quarter of an acre or larger) collectively as the "Elmore Poultry Farms" and the "Elmore Poultry

Farm Colony." We believe Mr. Elmore had become quite enamored of the ideals regarding the financial prospects of raising of poultry on small sized farms promoted by another local area resident and inventor, John Poorman, and incorporated those concepts into his marketing plan for these properties. A resident of the Tinley Park area, John Poorman built a successful nationwide poultry business around the foundation of a simple chicken brooder of his patented design which used a modified feather duster and light bulb configuration to simulate the warmth and coziness of a hen on a nest. He also published several books providing instruction and promoting the raising of poultry for profit on small scale farms.

"One with houses built on it"... (Cont'd)

By Mary Ann Marino and Brad Bettenhausen

The Elmore Real Estate Improvement Company would construct modest dwellings of five or six rooms on these "Estate" properties. These new offerings would be known as "subsistence homesteads" and would occupy sites of one-quarter acre to over one acre. Those homesteads were priced at \$4,500 including land, and could be financed with Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loans. In reviewing the architectural styles and other details of a number of the existing homes in these developments, we believe that at least some of the homes constructed may have been pre-cut mail order "kit" homes such as sold by Sears or the Aladdin Company. However, we do note that not all homes now found in these Elmore subdivisions were necessarily built by the Elmore Real Estate Improvement Company. In some instances, individuals would purchase only the vacant lot, and subsequently build their own homes. We are aware that in some instances individuals would initially build a simple "garage" type structure that would serve as their initial home until the household finances would allow construction of a larger more conventional house whereby the earlier structure would be converted into a garage. Many of these early homes still exist today, however, some have been modified with additions or other decorative trim masking their simple origins.



As part of his marketing of the Elmore Poultry Farms, and as an inducement, home buyers were also furnished with a chicken coop and 500-1,000 baby chicks. It was suggested that with a large tract of land for the combination of a garden and raising chickens, overall living expenses could be dramatically reduced. The stay at home housewife and children could tend to the garden and poultry (ultimately producing both eggs and meat) that could be used by the family to save on living expenses, or sold to enhance the household income, while the husband could commute on the nearby Rock Island railroad to a job in downtown Chicago. To complete the Elmore Poultry Farm Colony concept, Elmore also operated a local supply store providing feed and other staples for raising poultry, and also would broker the sale of eggs and poultry products to Chicago area businesses.

According to Grover C. Elmore, president, the homeowner could "raise more vegetables and fruits than his family could consume. From chickens he got not only eggs and

meat for his table, but eggs for sale to others." His marketing strategy was considered a success. By mid-1931, it was reported that 700 people occupied new homes on his various tracts of land in Tinley Park. The May 26, 1935 issue of the Chicago Daily Tribune, announced that "Grover Elmore Sells \$500,000 Farms This Year." Although that figure included other similar projects he developed elsewhere in the suburban area, it is clear that Elmore still had an attractive market in Tinley Park, reporting that all existing homes had been sold or rented, and plans were being made for several hundred additional homes to be constructed.

We can't say that all purchasers of the Elmore Poultry Farms were cut out for the farming life. Some early residents of the Elmore Poultry Farms properties have recalled that they had little success in raising the baby chicks into adulthood. Over the years, some owners have converted the chicken coops to other uses including garages and storage sheds. A few have been converted into summer "picnic" houses. In any case, many can still be found in these developments today although their earlier purpose may not be so apparent.

Another early subdivision, and perhaps one of the better known was the Parkside subdivision, developed on approximately 160 acres located between 167th and 171st streets along the east side of Oak Park Avenue (to Ridgeland Avenue on the west) began development in 1947 by the A.A. Lewis Realty firm. The Parkside subdivision is probably the first "planned" subdivision in the community that not only didn't follow a traditional rectilinear grid street pattern, but also included areas for commercial development (167th Street and Oak Park Avenue), and a public park/open space (Lewis Park) as part of the original plans. It was marketed to young families from Chicago. Often thought of primarily as a "GI (government issue) deal," the development has similarities in design to the famous "Levittown" development in New York, which was started at about the same time. Like Levittown, the houses were all similar in style and were swiftly built, some reportedly in little more than a day. The homes initially sold for about \$6,000. The late Mayor Rose Brown once suggested that they were built in such a fashion that "if a person went home a little bit inebriated, he could go into the wrong house because they were all alike." The subdivision became an immediate success. By mid-1949, residents had formed a well-organized homeowner's organization, commonly known as the Parkside Veterans. Through their efforts, community activities were held, participation in the annual

“One with houses built on it”... (Cont’d)
By Mary Ann Marino and Brad Bettenhausen

parade was arranged, discounts of construction products were procured, and community improvements, including street lights, better roadways, and street signs were obtained. Other groups such as the Parkside Ladies Auxiliary, Parkside knitting club, and Parkside bowling league were also formed. Life was close to ideal - so much so, that in early 1955, a second phase of construction was announced. Now totaling about 4,000 people, the new homes would be ranch style homes with 2 or 3 bedrooms. The curvilinear layout of the streets were constructed in terraces, that were said to have been designed to mitigate flooding which was an early problem faced by the subdivision. In reality, the terracing of the streets also adjusted for the significant natural grade change in the property between 167th Street and 171st Street.

Parkside continues to thrive well into the 21st Century. Well-manicured lawns abut tree lined streets, with pleasant names including Elm, Willow, Maple, Pine Point, Ravinia, Riverside, Hubbard, Forestview, and Glenview. This thriving subdivision originally designed to appeal to young families, remains one of the most sought after subdivisions in Tinley Park today. In several instances, there have reportedly been three and four generations of some families that have continued to reside in Parkside since its early days.

The ambitious Brementowne Total Living Community is another well know subdivision. Started in the early 1970s by Allied Homes on a 750 acre tract of land bounded by 159th Street to the north, 167th Street to the south, Oak Park Avenue to the east, and 80th Avenue to the West, initial estimates assessed the cost of the project to be more than \$110 million dollars. Billed as a total living community, Brementowne Estates and Villas offered several models of single family detached homes and attached villas ranging in price from \$24,000 to \$32,000. Common elements to both estate homes and villas included recreation areas, swimming pools, tennis courts, ball fields, play areas, basketball courts and landscaped park areas. It was proposed that the entire development would add a total of more than 15,000 residents to the rapidly growing Tinley Park. In fact, during early 1970, it was billed as the leading homebuilding community in the south suburbs. To complete its reputation as a total living community, a 125 acre shopping mall was constructed at the corner of 159th Street and Oak Park Avenue. Anchored by an indoor, 1,000 seat movie theater featuring two screens, rocking chair style seating, and a separate crying room for mothers of young children,

additional tenants would include major chain and independent stores, services and retailers.

Much like Parkside, Brementowne has aged gracefully. Its homes reflect the pride in ownership of their owners, and the development continues to appeal to families of all ages.

(Excerpts for this article from news clippings from the Chicago Daily Tribune, and the Suburbanite Economist newspapers)

Parkside and Brementowne Street Names.....

- LR

LVBB

LDMYJP

IHNOAAWA

AAPZQEHJOX

SIGAMWLCGLXT

PNFRRCJMKKNAIO

UIRKDLMVJDCFISEN

QVGEMCINOTGNITTIHW

AAYCLMRAKBEYOWHOTPRO

RRHOFAEMRWNNHLVSSOWV

SLEOPSEAEOOIFADION

SISLCNPITTGZSKLJ

XNEETKVLEHGZLF

DGNBATICLUIK

JTFOSMNAWH

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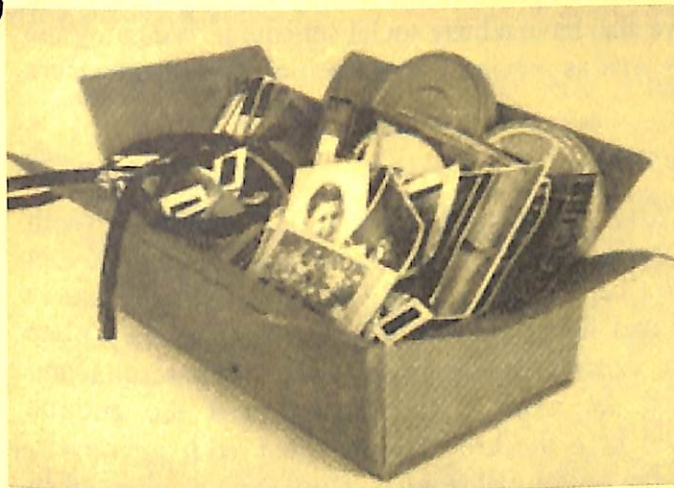
ZNRHRD

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|---------------|--------------|
| * PAXTON | * WILLOW |
| * ELM | * NOTTINGHAM |
| * CRESCENT | * ARLINGTON |
| * HAMILTON | * MAPLE |
| * HIGHLAND | * PARLIAMENT |
| * OZARK | * RAVINIA |
| * WHITTINGTON | * FORESTVIEW |
| * PRINCETON | * OAK PARK |

We Need Your Photos and Memories.....



We desperately need your help. Many think of the “old days” when they think about the history of Tinley Park, but we need to remember that yesterday is now history. That being said, we need your help to expand our collections of memorabilia, recollections, and photos.

People often ask us if we have information about some of the more recent businesses/establishments in Tinley.....the I-80 Drive-in, the A & W or the Dog’n’Suds, the Music Theater. Sadly, our answer is “not much”! Can you help change that? We hope so! The next time you look at your old photo album, please check for photos that we might like to copy. Photos of Oak Park Avenue through the years, signs of businesses - now gone and forgotten, parks, schools, and sporting events. You name it, we are probably interested!

How about all that “junk” that is lying around getting dusty? If you think it’s relevant to the history of Tinley Park we’d love to see it. Did you know that you can loan your item to us, and can have it back at any time? Outright gifts are always welcome.

One visitor told us of climbing into a dumpster to retrieve old family photos after they were thrown away by a family member. **Such a shame.....Once It’s Gone, It’s Gone!!!!**

Thanks to the Following Individuals for their generous donations.....

- Linda Weiss - Military Items and Newspapers
- Chris Rock - Radio Book
- Jack Payon - Bremen Bank Items
- Ron and Carol Otto - Books and family heirlooms
- TP Fire Dept./Bill Proper - Miscellaneous Items
- Terry Mager - Katherine Vogt Fulton’s Sewing Machine
- Marialyce Goesel - Dress Form
- Patricia Gee - Family History
- Ben Heemstra - Cubs, Sox and Bears Sports Information
- David Veyette - Metal sign, Midlothian Turnpike
- Jerry Hug - 1974-75 Frankfort phone book
- Don Isler - Tinley Park Dairy Bottle
- Tim Schroedle - Old Glass Bottles
- Ingeborg Feldmann – from Husband Dr. Feldmann, Fire Department info and leather belt
- Tinley Park Garden Club - Boxes of Memorabilia
- Betty Nagel - Tinley Park Dairy Glass Bottle
- Pat Meloy-Junkroski - William Meloy Military Uniform
- Don Kuech - Baseball Memorabilia
- Marcia Hardy - Rock Island Railroad Vouchers
- Herb Anderson - 1978-1979 Zoning Maps, Parkside subdivision DVD and Girl Scout Manual
- Colleen Simon - Tinley Park Fall Festival Memorabilia
- Carole Henke - Photo of Ed Henke and Pearl (Fulton), Henke Feed Store, and North Street
- Jean Rauch - Photo of 1935 Ironite Factory
- Loretta Mazierowski - 1887 Rock Island Invoices
- Dirk Spence - Farm syringe from Breitbarth Farm
- Judy Fulton - Handmade Model of Fulton Barn
- John Szaton and Sister Marcia Pendexter - 1940s Tinley Park Chamber of Commerce Bronze Stamp
- Susan Terzich - two binders of Reiher and Schillings family history.

Did You Know?.....

The Tinley Park Historical Society is so much more than a group of individuals huddled around a table, making small talk about things of old. In addition to our efforts to preserve the history of Tinley Park and the surrounding area (and talk a little bit while doing so), we also have a busy social schedule. We enjoy the opportunities to participate in Village sponsored events, as well as serving a host location for others. Here is a short list of some of our recent events:

How much is Gramma's Plate Worth?



On October 6, 2012, the Historical Society, in partnership with the Tinley Park Public Library, hosted an antique roadshow event in our Landmark Chapel. Many people brought in their treasures to be appraised and found out just how much Gramma's plate was really worth. Some people were excited with the results, and some had hoped for more. Rex Newell was the antique appraiser, and he kept the crowd entertained with appraisals, stories and tips for future collecting. Kurt Dekker, dressed in top hat and tails, greeted visitors, and with wife Julie, welcomed the crowd into the roadshow. They did a great job! It was a really fun day for the people that attended and also for the volunteers who worked to make the day such a success.

A special thanks goes to Sue Bailey from the Tinley Park Library for her help before and during the event, and to Ron and Carol Otto, John Szaton, Julie and Kurt Dekker, Mary Ann Marino, Lori Mason, and Pat and Ed Siensen. Once again, we couldn't do it without you!

Despite the wintry weather, the Easter Bunny still came to town!

It was a hop, skip, and a jump into our Easter event, which was held in conjunction with the Village of Tinley Park. Despite the frigid temperatures, many, many families stopped by for refreshments, adventures, crafts and games in our Saenger Hall.

It all began at the Vogt Visual Arts Center with pictures with the Easter Bunny, girls dressed in old-fashioned dresses, and Easter bonnets galore. After the photos, families followed carrot tracks to the American Legion for games, a DJ, and an Easter egg hunt. After enjoying the events the Legion had to offer, families once again followed the carrot tracks to the Historic Society Museum for some family fun in our Saenger Hall. We had tours of the museum and church, and also the schoolhouse museum. After they were finished touring the museum, many found residents from Tinley Park P.A.W.S. to be a special surprise! Our friends at P.A.W.S. brought 4 adorable pets, which were available for adoption. Rumor has it that one of these precious visitors found a forever home as a result of the event! In addition, we had crafts for the kids, children made Easter bonnets, played games, Easter coloring pages, and received a small basket filled with candy. Hot chocolate and cookies were a welcome treat on such a cold day.



Tinley Park Church Basketball League...

by Ken Webster



The Tinley Park Church Basketball League was in existence from 1953-1960, and played all their games at the Central Junior High School. The teams included were: St. George Catholic, Zion Lutheran, United Methodist and a Mixed Team representing other Churches.

The 1953-54 season had a schedule of 14 games. The Methodist and Mixed Church Team tied for first place with records of 11-3. A play-off game was held on February 25, 1954, and the Mixed Church Team won the championship by beating the Methodist Team 40-38. Players on that first championship team were: **Captain and League MVP Jack Tomlinson** along with **Ron Stege, Bob Simulcik, Jim Pierce, Bruce Ralston, Tom Mortensen, Roger Hug, Jerry Erskine and Boris Trylovich.** Dale Hartwig of the Lutheran team led the league in scoring with 2,434 points. The All-Star team included: **Dale Hartwig, Jack Tomlinson, Ron Stege, Jerry O'Neill and Roy Mortenson.**

Available records skipped to the 1957-58 season when the Nazarene Church joined the league. **Reverend Dallas Mucci** coached and played on the team. The Methodist team won the title that year with a 15-3 record, and also defeated the league All-Star by a score of 60-49. **Tom Jeffers**, Methodist Guard won the scoring title with 232 points, followed by **Ron Galina** of St. George Catholic with 224 points. Other players in the top ten scorers in the league were: **Wes Landau, Heinz Start, Rich Tindall, Ron Rodgers, Jerry Hug, Elmer Ginther, Dallas Mucci and Ken Webster.**

Some league records over the year included: Most Points in a Game (44) by **Rich Tindall** that included a record 25 points in one quarter, most Field Goals (16) and most Free Throws in a game at 12. As for team records, the Methodist team scored 115 points in one game that included the most points in one quarter (39). They also held the record for the highest per game average at 68 points.

At the conclusion of each season, the league held a "Sports Night" banquet to present trophies and awards. Each banquet had a special guest speaker. Included were: **Walter Fierke**, Superintendent of Schools, **Calvin Luther**, basketball coach at the University of Illinois, **Ray Meyer**, DePaul University Head Coach, and **George Ireland**, Loyola University Head Coach. Both Coach Myers and George Ireland led their teams to national championships.



The Tinley Park Church League brought players from different churches together in a venue that fostered better community relations and understandings of the different faiths. After game fellowship provide an opportunity for players to develop long time relationships that may not have occurred without their involvement in the league.

Articles from local newspapers about various games played and information about the league and the people who made it a success are on file at the Tinley Park Historical Society for viewing. Those were great years for me and other in Tinley Park and I enjoyed the opportunity of sharing this material with you..

Bring the Kids to the Museum.....

More and more kids are visiting our museum and we love it! So much so, that we have created activities especially for them. Through the many school groups that have visited, we have learned which exhibits interest the kids, what they like the most and what they would like to learn more about.

Our activity worksheets have been designed for two distinct age groups. Our younger visitors, and elementary aged children. Through the activities, they will learn more about specific items from the past, and how that item was part of the history of Tinley Park. Once completed, the child will have earned a special prize.

Our museum is free to the public (donations are welcome), and no appointment is necessary to visit the museum. We are open Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the first Sunday of the month from 1 - 3 p.m. and the second Thursday of the month from 6 - 8 p.m. Stop by and bring the kids and enjoy!

Eye on Our Exhibits.....

House and Farm...

Is our current exhibit and what a great exhibit it is! It was a cold winter day when Ron Otto suggested a farm display. To coincide with the farm calendar, we elected to hold this exhibit during the spring planting season. This large exhibit includes artifacts and displays depicting early farm life in Tinley Park. Early periodicals, advertisements, and publications are on display. Many farm tools and implements are also on hand. Our household exhibit will surely bring back memories of an earlier time.

Circa 1900 Farmhouse

Our own Pat and Ed Siemsen have gifted a farmhouse-style dollhouse to the museum which they purchased at a local auction. Thanks to Ed's carpentry skills, the dollhouse was reinforced and soon ready to be decorated. Our female volunteers eagerly accepted the task and set about decorating the house circa 1900. Our farmhouse has come to life to be used as a tour aid for local school and youth groups. The kitchen was decorated by **Connie Pavur** and exhibits many of the items found in the early farmhouse (note her attention to detail - many items were handmade by Connie). **Pat Siemsen** "sponsored" the living and dining rooms, and her furnishings include a grandfather clock, player piano (which is also a music box!), and the typical Victorian furnishings. **Mary Ann Marino** chose the parent's bedroom, and boy's room (in the attic!). Mary Ann's depiction includes a tiny pair of shoes on the floor at the end of the bed, a pair of puppies romping in the room, and teeny hairbrush and comb used by the lady of the house. The boy's room is sparsely furnished, but comfortable. The girl's bedroom was a joint effort between Pat and Mary Ann. Decorated in delicate pink rosebuds, it is a treasure. Look closely for hidden tips to Tinley's past: an old telephone, a photo of Samuel Tinley, an icebox. Look, also, for the dollhouse inside the dollhouse - handmade by our own Mary Ann.

We intend to feature the dollhouse in ongoing exhibits of early life in Tinley Park. We plan to add a "garden", an old "outhouse", and other out-buildings. We're looking for furnishings and items which can be used in our little growing farmstead. If you have any dollhouse furniture, etc., that you wish to donate, please contact us at (708) 429-4210.

Did We See You at Discover Tinley ?.....

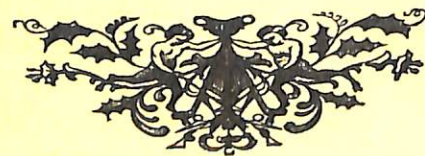
Discover Tinley was once again the talk of the town at the expo held at the Tinley Park Convention Center in April. It was an enjoyable day for the volunteers of the Tinley Park Historical Society, dressed in their finest hats and eager to tell stories of Tinley Park.



We had many people stop by and visit with our volunteers, recalling moments from their childhood, and everyone had comments about the pair of old roller skates and key that we brought to display.

Visitors to our booth started telling stories about the old area roller rinks where they used to skate, and you could almost hear them singing "*I've got a brand new pair of roller skates, you got a brand new key*"..... and of course, our young visitors didn't know why you needed a key for your roller skates! The old photos of Tinley Park homes and buildings were also a big hit, as were the old toys.

If we didn't see you at the Expo, we hope to see you soon at the museum. Stop by and relive some of your memories!



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Historical Society Office 708-429-4210
Brad L. Bettenhausen, Pres. (Business Hrs.) 708-444-5000
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Landmark Location
6727 West 174th Street

Museum open Weds. - 10 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
& by appointment (Phone First to be sure)

The Landmark is also available for weddings, receptions, and other meetings. Give us a call for more details.



Celebrate
Our
Independence



REMINDER.....TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIPS!

These are exciting times at the Historical Society! Be a part of it!! Don't let your membership lapse! Give a gift of membership to a friend!!! It makes a great present!!

Help Us - If you have received several issues of this quarterly letter and have not yet sent a check, we invite you to join us.

We welcome your support or

Please remove me from the mailing list

Here's my membership fee for 2012-2013
(September 1, 2012 Through August 31, 2013)

| | | | |
|---|---------------|--|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen/Student | - \$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting | - \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Family | - \$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life | - \$250.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial/Business | - \$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Founder's Circle | - \$500.00 (*) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I'd like to make an additional contribution to help accomplish our goals | \$ | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> This is a gift membership | Gift of _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Address | |

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(*) Includes one use of the Landmark facilities

MAIL TO:
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KEEP US UP TO DATE.....

Please be sure to inform us of address changes - even if they are temporary or extended "vacation" destinations. Each newsletter that gets returned costs us money to receive it back and to re-mail it. We want our members and friends to receive, read, and enjoy the newsletter, not get them returned to us.

Please join the Historical Society and discover some of the pieces of history of Tinley Park on display. Learn more about our great community.



The Tinley Park Historical Society Museum is located in the historic Old Zion Landmark Church, built in 1884, and includes a reproduction of a one-room school house next door. The Landmark Chapel (the oldest church building in Tinley Park) with its beautiful stained glass windows is available for weddings and special events.

Museum and Reference Library open
Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The First Sunday of the month from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Second Thursday of the month from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

For further information call (708) 429-4210

All Contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by tax laws