

New Bremen News

Of the

Tinley Park Historical Society

"Working on the Future of Our Past"

Volume 30, Number 01,

March 2016

Mary Ann Marino, Editor
Brad Bettenhausen, Historian

The Date was Dec. 6, 1941...it was Saturday

Americans were doing what they did every Saturday. They were listening to the radio - news, farm reports, game shows... the Inner Sanctum Mysteries, The Adventures of the Thin Man, The American Melody Hour. If they had a few extra "bucks", maybe they went to the movies. In 1941 most Americans went to the movies. Sergeant York, How Green Was My Valley, Road to Zanzibar, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Dumbo. They really didn't think much about war...after all, it really wasn't an American war. If they thought about it, they were thinking about the war in Europe. Sure, many young men had enlisted to help the cause, but times were good, the depression was over and good times were coming. They slept peacefully in their beds. The next morning, December 7, 1941, Americans got-up as usual, went to church, and came home and sat down to Sunday dinner. Life was good. But at 11:55 CST, life as they knew it changed. It was the day that FDR said would live in "Infamy". FDR was having lunch at the White House when THE news came in. Soon radios all over America buzzed with the news that several hundred Japanese planes attacked a U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. More than 2400 Americans were thought to have been killed, Navy battleships were destroyed, and America lost more than 100 planes. Former Tinley Park Mayor Frank Jeffords wrote in his journal "Clear and cold...at home all day...Japan started war...Getting reports over radio every few minutes." Everything changed on Dec. 7, 1941, and not an American would be spared its effects.

Throughout the coming year, the Tinley Park Historical Society will endeavor to pay homage to that year and those that followed through exhibits, displays, and special events. How did the day that lived in infamy change their lives...our lives? Join us as we Remember Tinley - the 1940s.

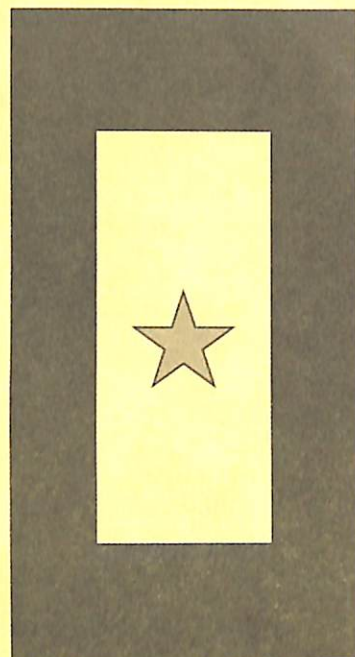


TINLEY MAN KILLED IN ACTION OVERSEAS

The Tinley Park Service Men's Committee transmitted news to the Tinley Park Times that **Lt. Allan M. Boner**, well known Tinley Park man, is reported to have been killed in action in the European area according to a telegram received by his parents Mr. and Mrs. John Boner from the War Department. No details were given by the War Department but they advise that further details will be given by mail.

Lt. Boner's death is the first one among all the Service men from this community in the armed forces. During the last World war, Tinley Park was fortunate enough not to have any casualties or injuries among the men in active service. This will be the first Gold Star on the Tinley Park community service flag.

Reprinted from Mokena News-Bulletin, Friday, August 13, 1943



Pictured above:

Back row: 1st Lt. James Pratt, 2nd Lt. William Bowling, 2nd Lt. Allan Boner, 1st Lt. Leonard Bierman
Front row: SSgt Joseph Scheuerer, TSgt Frederic Royar, SSgt Glen Allen, SSgt Dale Schilling, SSgt Robert Humphreys, SSgt Walter Johnston

BUDDY TELLS HOW TINLEY SOLDIER BOY MET DEATH

(Reprinted from the Mokena News-Bulletin, Friday, September 3, 1943)

The following letter has just been received by Mr. and Mrs. John Boner of Tinley Park

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Boner and Dottie Allison:

I hope you accept my apologies for not writing you any sooner, but I've been away at a rest home and I just recently returned to this squadron ready to do some more dirty work.

I'm not writing you this letter to depress you and I can realize just how deep your loss is because as Allan's roommate for the past 10 months, I think I knew him pretty well.

I doubt whether the War Department gave you very much information about the accident, so I will try and tell you as much as I can and the censors will permit.

On the night of August 3rd or rather early morning of August 4th, Lt. Pratt, pilot, Lt. Bowling, co-pilot, Allen (navigator), Sgt. Royar, radio operator and Sgt. Johnston, tail gunner, and three other enlisted personnel crashed into a mountain on a routine night cross-country flight in England. There were no survivors, no one knows what happened and no one's to blame. I honestly believe they were all killed instantly and that they never knew what hit them. That's about all I can tell you cause that's all I know.

I was grounded by the squadron doctor a day before this happened and I went away on a leave a day afterwards. So that's why I'm here to carry on where our crew left off. Pratt, Bowling, Allen and I plus our gunners had been thru a helluva lot of rough shows together and navigators like your son, and practically my brother, just don't come any better. He was a fine man and excellent officer. I could go on for pages but I just can't write about these things without making you feel pretty bad, so I hope you'll understand.

Our four remaining gunners and myself attended the funeral on August 10th.

The boys were laid to rest side-by-side at the American Cemetery in Brookwood, about 30 miles from London. They were all in their uniforms and buried with full military honors. Capt. Skoner, Catholic chaplain, officiated for our squadron. There was a delegation of high ranking officers from Bomber Command plus our own squadron delegation.

I believe these details are all correct and I only mentioned them because I thought you'd like to know.

I had remembered that Allen mentioned to me about having some pictures made to be sent home. So I contacted 3 or 4 studios in London and finally found the one. I sent a dozen large photos to your address last week. I also enclosed three small proofs which I purchased from the studio. There were four proofs altogether but I took the liberty of keeping the one which is the exact pose of the large photos. I hope you don't mind as I haven't got a picture of Allen.

If there is anything I can do, your wish is my command. If you get an opportunity, please write me.

Until then, tally ho.

Sincerely,
Lt. Leonard B. Bierman

P.S. I'm still dropping them (bombs) for Allen and his family.

Join us as we congratulate VFW Bremen Post No. 2791 on their 75th Anniversary

(The following excerpt is from an article published in 1845-1945 Centennial of Tinley Park 100 years of Progress; Oct. 1945)

"In February 1941, several Gold Chevron Veterans of World War I decided to start a VFW post in Tinley Park. Several meetings were held with Department Officers, a charter was granted in the name of Bremen Post, as Tinley Park was founded under the name of Bremen. and a name was chosen. On March 22, 1941 the Post and Ladies Auxiliary was instituted in Saenger Hall and attended by the largest crowd ever assembled in that historic place.

The first officers were: L.D. Maxwell, Post Commander; Dennis Murphy, Jr., Vice-Commander; Norman Hansen, Chaplain; Charles Wolf, Quartermaster; Raymond Mason, Adjutant; John Jones, Officer of the Day, and Edward Cupp, Boyd Carr and Frank Cushman, Trustees.

In 1942, eight members formed a club known as the Bremen Township Veterans Club and secured a loan and purchased the Lehmann Garage at 17147 Oak Park Avenue, and remodeled it into a meeting hall. At this writing, several organizations meet there twice monthly including the following: Bremen Post No. 2791, VFW American Legion Post No. 615, Women's Benefit Association and Juniors, Royal Neighbors of America Juveniles Bremen Auxiliary to Post No. 2791, VFW.

Bremen Post at the present has 52 members, 30 of these having served in World War II. Norman Hansen is a veteran of World War I and II."

March 22, 2016 marks the 75th anniversary of Veterans of Foreign Wars Bremen Post No. 2791. Originally the site of the Lehmann Garage, the property was purchased at a cost of \$7,000, with a mortgage personally secured by charter members. The old building was demolished in 1983 and a new 5000 square foot structure was built with the expectation that it would be sufficient space for decades to come. However, continued growth saw the need to expand, and in 1998, an additional 2500 square foot was added to the east end of the building.

With a current membership of more than 875 Veterans, 160 members of the Ladies Auxiliary and over 40 members of our Men's Auxiliary, Bremen Post 2791 has been recognized as an All-State Post for 26 consecutive years, and has the distinction of being recognized as an All-American Post. They are currently the largest Post in the 16th district and the 2nd largest Post in the state of Illinois.

We commend them on their continued service and dedication to our Village and our Veterans!



Do you remember when???

Bachelors Grove Ballroom, located at 145th and Oak Park Avenue, hosted roller-skating and dances in the 1940s. Lieder's Café, operated by Earl "Pops" Lieder, provided meals.

Siesmsen Implement Sales appeared in a 1941 newspaper advertisement which featured McCormick-Deering Farm Implements, International Harvester Trucks and Farmall Tractors. Elmer Siemsen was the proprietor.

Fred Hick's meat market was located at 17302 Oak Park Avenue. August Henry Mesenbrink was the previous co-owner of the Hick and Mesenbrink Meat Market.



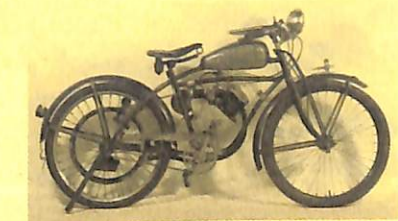
Dini's Tavern was located on the southeast corner of Oak Park Avenue and Hickory Street. It was sold by Guido Dini to Reno Corsi who continued to operate the restaurant and bar at that location until the mid-1950s.

In 1942, Michele P. Bernardini, 74, an Italian sculptor who came to Chicago in the early 1900s, created a bust of Abraham Lincoln. His studio was located at the farm of his son Mario at 17808 Harlem Ave. He intended to give the 9 foot sculpture to the village of Tinley Park to replace the monumental canon which was scrapped for the war effort.



TP WWII scrap drive circa early 1940s

In the 1940s, a Whizzer Motorbike dealer occupied the building just east of Parenti's Tavern (now Teehan's) on North Street.



Funk's Service Station and Funk's Luncheonette was located at 173rd and Oak Park Avenue. Edward Funk ran an ice cream business just east of the Funk Luncheonette.

Service Bakery was located on the northeast corner of Oak Park Avenue and 173rd Street.

Recent Donations:

TP School District: 1942 Village Book of Ordinances
1948-1950 TP Recreation Commission Program

Eileen Anderson: (Niece of Carol Henke) from the home of father Ed Henke – many family photos and documents

Dennis Nash: 1918 photo of Amelia Bettenhausen holding baby Tony Bettenhausen and family.

Brad Bettenhausen: 1995 CD interview with Sister Mary Cornelius, daughter Francis Harper; 1974-1981 The Exchanges; 1986-1988 Octoberfest booklets; 2014 village resolution recognizing past accomplishments of one-time Vlg Manager Scott Niehaus

Kurt & Julie Dekker: Book “Go” story about Bettenhausen racing history.

Lenine (Couch) Rauch: Many old family memorabilia items, books, handtools, sports programs, Raceway Park program.

Roman Wojcik: St. George Church 75 yr Memory Book, 1982 Civil War reenactment in Tinley Park photos; photo 1984 I.N.R. Beatty Lumber fire damage.

Ron Otto: Vol. 1 & 2, 1860 Will County Federal Census book; books from 1847-1997 Chicago Title & Trust Co., 1979 Historical Guide to Chicago Neighborhoods; 1950 plat mat of Grundy County; 1844-1914 of England

Roger Hug: 1950 photos boys little league teams

Jerry Hug: Photos and newspaper articles – early 1900s.

Ed & Pat Siemsen: 1980-1982 Tinley Park High School sports plaques; four wooden school house benches; two wooden desks.

Ed & Ellen Clark: Many photos of Ed Howell and Prosperi Airport and aerial views; many old items from Ed & Joe’s Restaurant; 1985 photo of Mayor Ed Zabrocki and Ed Howell discussing flyover at Octoberfest.

Paul & Phyllis Ebeling: Photo 1964 Jaycee float in parade along Oak Park Avenue

Mr. & Mrs. Joel Hopman: piece of wood from Henry Vogt’s coach shed with 1914-1918 list of items sold.

Family of Melvin & Gertrude (Bormet) Devalk: Family Bible from Adam Breitbarth; Family and Friend’s quilt of 1934-1936; Carl M. and Natalie Bormet; 1850 child’s wooden cradle

Allan Rick: from grandfather Phillip Mager – 1900s Victrola Music Box; grandparent’s confirmation certificates 1874 & 1877.

Pete Crapia: Many current historical items pertaining to Batchelor Grove Cemetery and early settlers.

Linda Ogata: Village of Tinley Park game circa 1980

Richard Stuenkel: Photos and aerial views of Tinley Park business, Bormet farm, 159th and Oak Park Avenue, photos, family memorabilia and wife’s painting.

Arlie Thayer: Family and personal items from Frank Jefford’s house attic.

Michael Cutrano: Many TP Jaycee collection of pins, patches and books.

Diane Pelaso: 1938 aerial photo of Tinley Park and older Discover Tinley photo

A Letourneau: 1976 Bi-centennial photos, calendar and Bremen Bank sticker

Mary Dobbins: 6” round x 12” long concrete field tile from Barrett’s subdivision.

Don Goesel: three 1947 animal skins and steel traps from Tinley Creek.

Dawn & Charles Smith: 1950s TP and Chicago newspapers, books, 1974 Will County Atlas and plat book.

Richard & Betty Gammell: WWII fuel ration book of coupons and stamps

Paul & Marcia Cummings: Village and Fire Dept. event memorabilia

Mary Breitbarth Palmer: Breitbarth family and village memorabilia

Tricia Gee Kiwior: Volumes I and II of Vogt Family History and photos

Marvin & Nellie Vogt

Brad Bettenhausen Historic Photos of Tinley Park from Chanute Air Museum in Rantoul, IL, many of which were negotiated to be returned due to closing. Collection includes Propseri Airport, Ed Prosperi, South Suburban airports, Bill Howell, aerial maps, scrapbooks. Circa 1930-1940 piano bench, and glass wash board recovered from trash bin during renovations of Fulton House in 2003. Many early 20th century luxury clothing items from her mother’s collection, including hats, muffs and fox stolls.

Karen Koester Hill

Marilyn Pringle

Ray Gustafson

Ingebord Feldman

Eric Carlson

John Szaton

Robert Bettenhausen

John Terrell

Dennis Hayward

Randall Styx

Chris Cayle

Craig Boat

Ed & Pat Siemsen

Ron & Betty Casas

Georgann Prochaska

Ryan Cummings

Kurt & Julie Dekker

Darby Faamily

Dave Zima

Dawn Smith

Herb Anderson

Helen Janicek

Marilyn Bill

Bill & Karen Howell

Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Marquardt Wooden churches

Logan & Elizabeth Rick Monetary donation

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

"CALLING ALL CHILDREN"

On Saturday June 18, 2016 from 12:00 until 4:00, the school bell will once again ring in the Tinley Park Historical Society's one room schoolhouse, located at 6727 W. 174th. The teachers and staff, dressed in period costume, will usher in memories of a time cherished for its practicality, a day celebrated for its innocence, and a moment to shine a light on the humble origins that did so much to make our little town such a viable part of the growing expansion of our state and our country.

For the third year, the four hour afternoon event will host 20 children ages 6 through 13 who will learn about and share the experiences that their ancestors might have had. Lessons in Spelling and Language Arts will be taught using chalk and slate. The children will use McGuffey's readers for recitation and even have an old time Spelling Bee. Students will hone their penmanship skills using quill pen and ink.

Implementing the three "Rs"...Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, we will also include hands on activities in Science and History. Lessons will speak to "times gone by" in Tinley Park from its inception as an area frequented by the Potawatomi Indians to its incorporation as a village in 1892. Mr. Edward Siemsen will share his boyhood discoveries of Native American artifacts on the land and waters surrounding his childhood home in Tinley Park, and the very distinguished Mr. Samuel Tinley, will explain his role as a citizen and the story behind the name that our town proudly bears today.

Recess, too, will continue the theme with games such as marbles, tag, and jump-rope. Snacks of home-made biscuits jam and juice will be provided. The children will even learn to squeeze their own juice!

Students in grades one through eight, will sit together on wooden benches hewn from hundred

year old wood, practice their 'letters', work on their arithmetic 'ciphering' skills, and experience the valuable but simple lessons that may be gleaned from the past and incorporated into our world today.

History of the area and its beginnings will provide opportunities for the children to work together, the 7th and 8th graders mentoring and supporting the efforts of those younger children as they did in days gone by..... Co-operating on projects that will include hands on activities demonstrating our early forebear's land use, resource conservation and environmental appreciation. They will experience the drying and preserving of meat and food without refrigeration. Students will explore geodes gleaned from Northern Illinois riverbanks. They will compare early conservation practices and see that many of these can be transferred into our present day recycling and energy efforts.

It is the hope of the staff of the Tinley Park Historical Society that the children will come away with a knowledge of the hardships, achievements and experiences of the children who have gone before them; that they will take with them an appreciation, awareness, and pride in their community and the people who developed it, as well as an understanding and awareness of their own continuing role in its future.

SAVE THE DATE Saturday, June 18, 2016

There is no cost but registration is necessary and limited to 20 children.



Tinley Park Historical Society

Annual Board Meeting and Election of Officers

Our annual Board Meeting was held on January 27th, 2016. Items of business for discussion were the election of officers and the revision of the By-laws of the Tinley Park Historical Society.

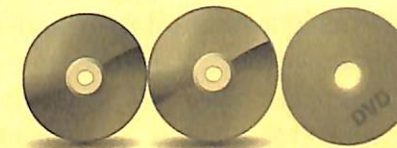
Our election of officers was held for the year of 2016-2017. Results are as follows:

President	Ed Siemsen
Vice President	Phil Pursley
Secretary	Pat Siemsen
Treasurer	Brad Bettenhausen
Directors:	Pat Rea, Jerry Hug, Mary Ann Marino, John Szaton and Julie Dekker.

The board unanimously approved and conferred the title of President Emeritus and Historian upon **Brad Bettenhausen** in recognition of his many years of service to our society.

We encourage all members to become involved and help to secure the future of the Tinley Park Historical Society.

Originally written in the 1980s, the Board of Directors felt that an update of the By-laws was needed. After much committee work, a revision was drafted, reviewed and subsequently approved by the Board of Directors. Anyone interested in a copy may stop by the Historical Society during our regular hours, or may request a copy be mailed to them. Please call our office at (708) 429-4210 and leave your name AND current mailing address.



Did you pick-up your copy of our new DVD?

Our village has so much history; it is a shame that it is not more readily shared...so thought our own **Phil Pursley**. Not one to sit still, he decided to do something about it. Using his trusty camera and personal computer, Phil composed, edited and produced a DVD, *Memories of Tinley Park*. Using photos and voice-over interviews of early residents of Tinley Park, it is a one-of-a-kind masterpiece. You'll hear remembrances of long-time residents, while enjoying historical photo clips of homes, public buildings, and schools from long ago. It is a wonderful addition to our collection of historical information, and is now available to our valued members and the public. This DVD is available at the Tinley Park Historical Society for a suggested donation of \$5.00, and is available in two formats: one for your DVD, or another for your personal computer. Stop by, visit, and pick-up your personal copy. Supplies are limited.



Membership news...

On the back inside cover of this newsletter you will find our standard Registration form. We ask each and every member to complete and return this form on a yearly basis. Please note that there is no change in the amount of our annual dues, they will remain the same. However, we are implementing a change in our membership policies. Effective with this newsletter, our membership year will follow the calendar year and run from January 1st through December 31st. To better track our membership, and to ease our bookkeeping duties, dues will now be due during the first quarter of every year. To save costs, we do not send out invoices. Simply clip the form at the back of this newsletter and return it with your payment. We value your membership, and look forward to your continued support.

New Members:

Ed and Kelly Gregory
William and Mariann Hoffman
Richard Stuenkel
Collette Verdon
The Roche Family
Kurt & Julie Dekker
Helen Janicek
Lisa Trodden-Donahue
Susan Tilton

Once you have mailed your registration and dues, please clip the following Membership card.

Tinley Park Historical Society

6727 W. 174th St.
Tinley Park, IL 60477

Member name: _____

Expires December 31, 2016

Follow the Flag of Tinley Park

With summer just around the corner, many of us have our minds set on vacation. Before you head-out on your trip, consider taking a Tinley Park Village Flag with you. The Tinley Park Historical Society is continuing its "Follow the Flag" program in which Tinley Park residents can reserve a village flag to take along on their travels. Just take a photo of yourself or family at a landmark or interesting place, and share it with us at the Society. The photos will then be shared on our Facebook page and we will literally follow our flag of Tinley Park as it travels the world. Here are just a few places our flag has visited:

*Milford Sound, New Zealand,
Sydney Harbor, Sydney, Australia
Tiger Nest Monastery, Bhutan
Arches National Park, Utah
Rome, Italy ~ Paris, France
Mexico ~ Tennessee ~ Canada
The San Francisco Bay area
And Cooperstown, New York*



Board of Directors

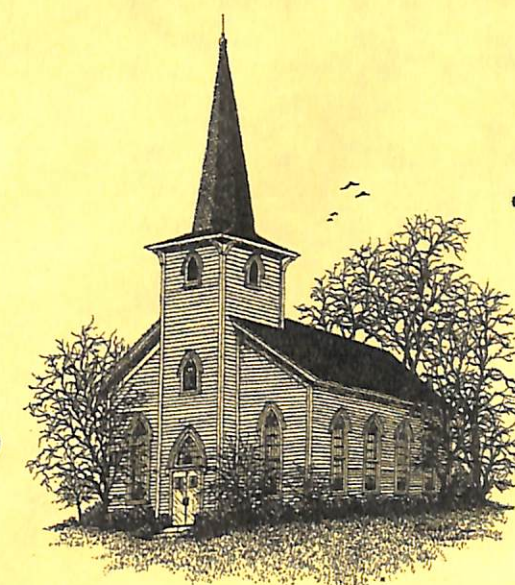
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Vice President	Phil Pursley
Secretary	Pat Siemsen
Treasurer	Brad Bettenhausen
Director	Pat Rea
Director	Jerry Hug
Director	Mary Ann Marino
Director	John Szaton
Director	Julie Dekker

Brad L. Bettenhausen President Emeritus/Historian

Historical Society office (708) 429-4210

Landmark Chapel and Museum

6727 W. 174th Street
Tinley Park, IL



Tinley Park Historical Society Membership Registration *INVOICE*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen/Student \$15 annually | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Family \$25 annually | <input type="checkbox"/> Life \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial/Business \$50 annually | <input type="checkbox"/> Founder's Circle \$500* |
- *includes one use of the Landmark facilities.

- ☐ I'd like to make an additional donation of \$ _____
- ☐ Please remove me from the mailing list ☐ Change of address
- ☐ This is a gift membership - name of giver _____

(make checks payable to Tinley Park Historical Society)

Payment due between January 1st & March 31st of every calendar year

All contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by tax law.

Name _____

City, State, Zip code _____ email address _____

Phone _____

Please mail to:

Tinley Park Historical Society
6727 W. 174th Street
Tinley Park, IL 60477

Tinley Park Historical Society

P.O. Box 325

Tinley Park, Illinois 60477

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Tinley Park, IL

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Return Service Requested

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 which can be used for other purposes. We want our members and friends to receive, read, and enjoy this newsletter, not have them returned to us!

The Tinley Park Historical Society Museum is located in the Old Zion Landmark Chapel built in 1884, and reproduction one-room Schoolhouse. The Landmark Chapel (oldest church building in Tinley Park), with its beautiful stained glass windows, is available for weddings and special events.

Our Musuem and Reference Library is open during the following hours:

Every Wednesday from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm

The first Sunday of the month from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm

The second Thursday of the month from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm
or by appointment

For further information please call our office at (708) 429-4210

