

New Bremen News

of the

Tinley Park Historical Society

"Working on the Future of Our Past"

Volume 30, Number 02,

September 2016

Mary Ann Marino, Editor
Brad Bettenhausen, Historian

*This edition of the New Bremen News continues to remember World War II and its' effect on life in Tinley Park.
"Remember Tinley – The 1940s."*

THE HOME FRONT

(Source: Wessels Living History Farm [www.livinghistoryfarm.org] August 2016)

In April, 1942, FDR addressed the nation and called everyone to action. "One front and one battle where everyone in the United States – every man, woman and child is in action. That front is right here at home, in our daily lives."

Everyone was called on to "Do Your Part." They were encouraged to defend the country and support the war effort. There were lots of ways to be involved in the war effort.

- Everyone seemed afraid of the possibility of invasion. Even the hometown newspaper in York, Nebraska – over 1,200 miles away from either coast – ran an article about what to do in case of an air raid.
- Civil defense efforts were organized. Students and adults were taught to identify the outlines of friendly and enemy airplanes and patrolled the skies, especially on the coasts. Blackout drills were organized where entire cities and towns covered their windows and doused the lights on their cars.
- "Loose lips sink ships." There was a deep paranoia about spies in the U.S. Posters appeared all over encouraging people not to talk about ships sailing or airplanes taking off.
- Farmers were expected to increase food production despite the fact that there were fewer farm workers available. Food and other basic commodities were needed to support the troops and allied populations in Europe, so they were rationed at home.
- Urban residents were encouraged to plant "*Victory Gardens*" and raise their own food supply.
- The newspapers were full of news from the frontlines of the battles. The papers also hammered home what civilians could do on the home front.
- People were encouraged to write letters often to the service men and women who were overseas. These messages from home were important in keeping up morale.
- The publishers of dress patterns modified their designs so that they used half of the fabric they might have before the war.

Everything was conserved and redirected to the war effort. Yet we remained hopeful.

In 1945, as the war ended, first in Europe in May and then in Japan in September, the world made a swift and sometimes painful transition to a peacetime economy. War industries tried to find civilian uses for the technologies they had developed. In the process they revolutionized agriculture. Service men and women returned home with new skills and knowledge. Social groups, like minorities and women, began demanding civil rights and equity. Everything changed once again...and *we were hopeful*.

VICTORY GARDENS

By Julie Dekker

Throughout the years of World War II just as in the First World War the United States government encouraged its citizens to become involved in supporting the war effort in many ways. Everyone from school children to housewives were recruited to collect and contribute so that our soldiers would have the supplies that they needed. The quantity needed was large and market shortages caused the rationing of not only food but items such as rubber, tin and even grease. Many food supplies were taken from the market to supply the armed forces. The amount of men serving also caused labor shortages on farms and in factories. Metal that had been allotted for canning vegetables was now being used in the war effort. These factors all created the need for citizens to plant gardens at home. In the Chicagoland region the office of Civil Defense created a Victory Garden Department for the sole purpose of teaching and aiding average citizens in the task of gardening. Victory Gardens became a viable way for the citizens that could not serve in the armed forces to contribute to our nation's cause. The department distributed pamphlets and instruction booklets for city dwellers and suburbanites filled with information on everything from what kind of vegetables to grow and how to arrange the rows to soil preparation, watering, composting and disease control. Special instructions were even given for what type of vegetables could be grown by residents living in the "smoke" districts of Chicago where the levels of sulfur dioxide gas were high due to industrial plants. In the Tinley Park area harmful gasses were not a concern and farmland and garden space were more plentiful. The Victory Garden Department as well as the United States government promoted gardening as not only a healthy past time but a patriotic duty.

In 1943 Americans planted over 20 million victory gardens and the harvest accounted for nearly a third of all the vegetables consumed in

the country that year. The idea of home and community gardening for both personal use and supplying food pantries is still popular today.

As we revisit the 1940s this year, we at the Historical Society has planted a victory garden of our own. Due to the good rains and warm temperatures it is coming along quite nicely and we will be able to share our harvest with our local food pantry.



The society is proud to display 2 war bonds that were purchased during WWII by the students of the Tinley Park school. The money received from the students was ultimately used to purchase a field ambulance, an M-29 Weasel tank type vehicle and to finance a bank loan.



BUY WAR BONDS

Can you help to identify the Service Men and Women of this photo?

Several weeks ago WWII Veteran Logan Rick graciously shared a group photo taken March 30, 1946 at Saenger Hall. He, along with 96 other individuals, most of whom were WWII Vets, posed for a group photo. We'd love to be able to identify these individuals who proudly served their country. If you can provide any information, please contact the Historical Society at (708) 429-4210.



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If you're like us, you love everything about the history of Tinley Park and surrounding areas. Check out two of our favorite **Facebook** sites: Our own "[Tinley Park Historical Society](#)" which keeps you updated on both past and future events, and Phil Pursley's site (which has become a fan favorite): "[Tinley Park! You Know You Are from there when you know its HISTORY...](#)".



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School Day Memories

By Patricia Moran Siemsen

The road to Tinley Park Grade School was not a long road – but as we walked to school every day we would stop along the way to pick-up our friends. Sometimes this took us to the backroads, and then onto Oak Park Avenue again. Oak Park Avenue was a very quiet street and you knew just about everyone that drove by.

We would arrive at school just in time for the bell to ring and we would all line-up outside the door. After we all arrived in our classroom, the day would start with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by announcements over the P.A. system. Then we would get down to the business of reading, writing, and arithmetic. There were about 25 kids in each class and the classes were 1st grade through 8th grade. We did not have lockers, we had a coatroom that was inside the classroom and was similar to a large closet where we kept our coats, hats and boots.

You cannot talk or write about Tinley Park Grade School without the mention of everyone's favorite teacher, Mrs. Sandidge. She was not only a teacher, but was also the Principal of the school. The Superintendent of the school was Walter Fierke, Mrs. Harcourt was the school secretary and ran the office. Mrs. Zahler was the Art Teacher, Mrs. Rauhoff, Mrs. Mager and Mr. Clements were all great teachers.

Lunchtime was fun, too. We would take our lunches from home and all of us would walk to Rudy's store for lunch. Rudy's was only a block from the school. We would order cherry cokes, put our nickels in the juke box and just have a good time. I still remember the old high-backed wooden booths that we sat in, and the candy counter in the front of the store. Rudy always told us when we had five minutes left for lunch and we would get ready to go back to school. No one ever thought of not returning to school.

And then it was time for gym. The gymnasium was a grand old place, and it was used not only by the school kids, but also for many community events. Different clubs, churches, etc., would hold plays, recitals, fashion shows, and many other events under its roof. I remember the stage – it had beautiful red velvet curtains that would open and close, just like in a real theatre. We had bleachers in the back of the gym to sit on, and folding chairs were set-up for programs. The gym was also used by the school kids on rainy days for recess. We would play volleyball, basketball, relay races and many other activities. On sunny days we would play outside. I will never forget Mrs. Sandidge playing baseball, and running the bases in her gym shoes. She was a darn good baseball player and surprised us all.

Unlike today, we were allowed to celebrate holidays. Halloween was an especially fun time. We would dress in costume and parade around the outside of the school. There were prizes for different categories. After the parade we would all go back to the gym for our Halloween party. All the moms would send cookies and cupcakes for all our holiday parties.

Christmas usually meant that we would perform a play in the gym for our families. I remember the operetta, "Tom Sawyer" that we performed. We all had to sing solos, and the chorus would sing songs of the season. It was great fun and well attended.

Those were the days...remember, "Yes, I do remember it well". A trip down memory lane, instead of walking down Oak Park Avenue to school, was lots of fun.

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**Did you know that we have resumed doing one-on-one oral interviews?** Our interviewer, Julie Dekker, is assisted by Ron Otto and Ray Gustafson, and has already completed interviews with Betsy and Logan Rick, and Richard Stuenkel. These interviews shed light on earlier days in Tinley Park and the surrounding area and are invaluable. If you know of someone who should be interviewed, please contact us at (708) 429-4210.

## Tinley Park Grade School - 5th Graders - 1947



BOYS: Row 1 Front: Keith Johnson, Mike Smay, James Sherman, Don Bernardini, Elmer Dull

Row 2: Ken Schumacher, Elmer Ginther, James Reder, Eugene Rogers, Allen Lindemann, Robert Mason

Row 3: David Hutchinson, Jack Tomlinson, Jerry Hug, Charles Hanna, Ken Parkinson

GIRLS: Row 1 Front: Sharon Zirbes, Shirley Peterson, Sherry Funk

Row 2: Joanne Winkler, Dorothy Matuszewich, Carol Shwatal, Beverly Pokorney, Joellen Jeffords, Donna VanAntwerp





# Our House

By Patricia Moran Siemsen

If our house could talk, what a tale it would tell. The year was 1948 and Mom (Dorothy Moran) and Dad (Robert "Red" Moran) were looking for a house to purchase. They saw an ad from Elmore Real Estate and decided to ride out to the country to have a look at the house. This was not an ordinary house, but what they called a "shell". That meant it had outside walls, a roof, windows, heating, electric and plumbing. The interior was open, no walls dividing the rooms, so Mom and Dad could make the rooms the sizes that they wanted. The price was right and they purchased the house from Elmore. It did not come with a chicken coop or chickens, though.

Dad worked at the Merchandise Mart in Chicago as an Engineer. He was employed there for over fifty years. The Rock Island Railroad played an important part in Mom and Dad's decision to settle in Tinley Park, as the railroad provided an easy commute for Dad to and from work.

So the work on the house began. Walls were put up, and the rooms were divided. We lived with two by fours for many months as the work progressed. Dad worked nights, so he had daytime hours to work on the house.

We were in the house about six months when Dad had an accident at work. He fell into what they called a "cat hole" which is a hole that is wide at the top and very narrow at the bottom. As a result of the fall, he broke his back in two places. He was in a cast from his neck to his hips for one year. He could not bend to pick anything up. My brother, Bob Moran, was in the Navy on the USS Norris, so he was not able to help out. So Mom worked alongside Dad, and when he needed a tool she would hand it to him. This would continue for about a year and then finally it was time that he could have the cast removed.

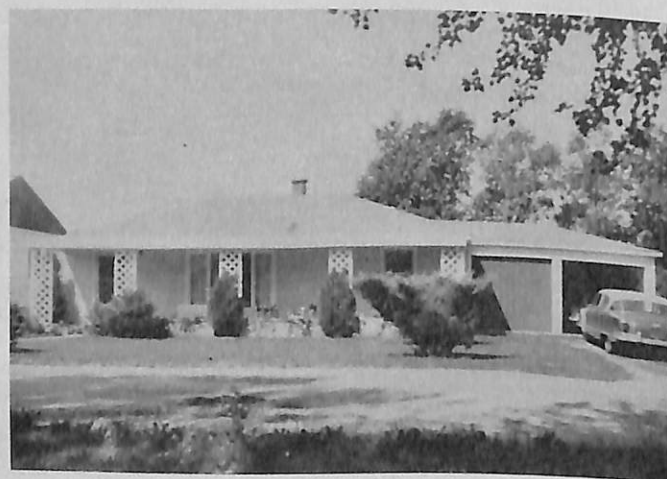
They continued to work on the house and it was a very long time to get the house the way they wanted it to be. Little by little the work progressed and the house was finished. Dad added a garage that later became the master bedroom, and another garage was added. The merchants of Tinley Park played a big role in the building of the house. All

of the lumber to build the house came from Beatty Lumber Company. All of the faucets, hardware and miscellaneous came from Bettenhausen Hardware, and the shell, itself, came from Elmore Real Estate. Dad working at the Merchandise Mart worked-out quite well. He was given items that came out of display areas, and he could either throw them away, or use. The thing I remember most was the flooring that he brought home. It was oak parquet flooring. There was a black tar substance on the back of each square, and Dad took a blow torch and cleaned each piece. It was beautiful flooring. I believe it is still in the house.

Mom and Dad lived in the house for approximately sixty years. After they passed away, the house was sold. The house is still standing today. The new owners removed the front porch, decorative columns, and brick planter boxes. It took away a lot of the character of the house that I remember.

Our house, on New England Avenue, was the home of many celebrations, birthday parties, Christmases, and much more. Bob (my brother) and I had ten kids between us, so when we went to "our house" (the kids called it "Gramma's house") to celebrate, we had quite a large Moran clan. Many fun times were had in that house on New England Avenue.

One of these days I might knock on the door, and ask if I could take a peek inside.



16714 New England Avenue

# Do You Remember When? The 1940s...

1940 the new Methodist Church is dedicated.

*Charles A. Nieman was elected Village President in 1941, Walter Fierke was appointed Principal of the District 146 public grade schools, and dial telephones replaced the operator switchboard for phone service.*

Prosperi Airport opened at the south end of town in 1942.



*In 1944, property for the proposed Memorial Park is acquired. Ruth and Henry Bettenhausen loaned monies for the purchase.*

1945 brings the end of the war and Wesley J. Stem is elected Village President. A Fall Festival Committee is formed and a new Rock Island Railroad Depot was constructed on the south side of the railroad tracks. Jardines Restaurant opens at the corner of 159<sup>th</sup> Street and Oak Park Avenue.



*Grover C. Elmore Plaza begins construction becoming the first shopping center in Tinley Park. Klepper's Bakery opens for business in 1946.*

1947 harkened the first major residential housing development in Tinley Park as construction of the Parkside subdivision began.

*Rose Brown is elected Village President in 1949.*



## Watch for This Special Event!

*Tinley Park Historical Society proudly presents Remembering Tinley - The 1940s*

Join us as we pay homage to one of the most captivating decades in American History. Throughout the year, we will present special exhibits, displays, and events depicting life in the 1940s. We will explore the effects World War II had on typical American families, its' hardships, joys and hope for the future. Photos, books and memorabilia will present Tinley Park then and now. This summer will bring the fruits of our Victory Garden, and on September 18th we will host a special day of celebration. We hope to see you throughout the coming year, and please join us in September...Remembering Tinley - The 1940s!

**Sunday Sept. 18th**

Noon until 5pm

Featuring

Radio Personality

**Steve Darnall**

and

Chicago's Own

**Irving Sisters**



## Thanks to these individuals for their Recent Donations!

|                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sandra and Ray Gustafson</b>                                               | Family leather scrapbook, TP Fire Dept. 100 Yr Anniversary Book of Excellence, Bremen Cash Store advertising, Book of early man-made tools                                                          |
| <b>Patrick Byrn</b>                                                           | 1954 Rand McNally Commercial Atlas; historical world atlas                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Betty (Rich) Phillips</b>                                                  | 1958 and 1961 TP Phone Directory, photos of 1956 Tinley Park tornado, photos of Fulton School and Bremen High School.                                                                               |
| <b>Marilyn Pringle</b>                                                        | Buttons, sewing items, Budingen Frog mascot, kitchen utensils, 1920s women's clothing items                                                                                                         |
| <b>Terry Mager</b>                                                            | 1939 U.S.A. Silver Basketball charm                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Bruce Haffner</b>                                                          | Woman's 1940 WAC uniform, WWII men's service cap.                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Betsy and Logan Rick</b>                                                   | 1967 receipt from Vogt Store, 1982 TP Lions Pool letter, TP Lions Pool certificates, WWII photo of TP Service Organization individuals, 1967 TP Times newspaper headline of Vogt's Dept Store fire. |
| <b>Bill Kostecki</b>                                                          | Two 1955 white, Bakelite long pipes found in Central School.                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Patricia Tirpak</b><br>(Daughter of Mrs. F. Borst)                         | 14x14 granite stone with inscription "Tinley Bridge, Bremen Township, Cook County, Built 1922, Powers-Thompson Construction Co., Contractor, H.C. Taylor Bridge Engineer                            |
| <b>Maribeth (Putz) Bishop</b>                                                 | 1979 TP Chamber publication                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>John Szaton</b>                                                            | 1965-1991 newspapers...PennySaver, Star Herald, and Community Guide                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Barb and Mike Sevier</b>                                                   | Glass quart bottle with orange lettering from TP Dairy                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Joan and Mike Cutrano</b>                                                  | WWII items, bag, backpack, belt, wool jacket.                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>TP Community Band</b>                                                      | Items from Arts Alive Community Band, and memorabilia in memory of <b>Steve Platko</b> , Director.                                                                                                  |
| <b>Richard Stuenkel</b>                                                       | 1968 and 1970 Southern Cook County plat maps.                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Mary (Breitbarth) Palmer</b><br>From Aunt Mabel Breitbarth:                | 1920s ladies personal items                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Roger Barton</b><br>From his father TP<br>Police Ofcr <b>Walter Barton</b> | Many personal, and police dept. memorabilia, from throughout the years, awards, commendations.                                                                                                      |
| <b>Robert VanTreck</b>                                                        | Wooden map cabinet, many plans and studies, minutes from meetings while Community Development Director, and on commissions, some hand tools and a box of American Indian stone tools.               |

## Cash Donations:

Zion Lutheran Church  
American Legion, Aux. Unit 615  
Virginia Manzke  
Mrs. J.W. Crumback, Sr.  
Carol and Roger Hug  
Stanley E. Leland, Jr.  
Walt's Foods  
Meijer  
Walmart

Brooke Charbonneau  
"Happy" Bettenhausen  
Betsy & Logan Rick  
Phyllis & Paul Ebeling  
Debra Maloney  
Amazon Smile Foundation

## Far Away Visitors:

Gail and Gene Zager – Bettendorf, IA  
Zoey and Dave Goesel – Sarasota, FL  
Andy Goesel – Nokomis, FL  
Suzanne Silva – Snellville, GA  
Debbie and Mike Kruck - Yukon, OK  
J. P. DeFrank – Eugene, OK  
Brendan Musebo – United Kingdom  
David Kopchle – Germany  
Don Fulton and Children – Panama  
Tim Ripple – Oregon

## New Members:

April and Bruce Haffner  
Caitin O'Connor

## Supporting Members:

Ray Gustafson  
Robert J. Kovarik  
Edith DeValk

## Memorials:

|                         |                                        |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Louis and A.J. Newlands | <i>In Memory of Melvin Stege</i>       |
| Goesel Family           | <i>In Memory of Don Goesel</i>         |
| Susan Dorsey            | <i>In Memory of Paul Jeffords</i>      |
| Betsy Crumback          | <i>In Memory of John Crumback, Sr.</i> |

## We Remember:

**Joachim Staackman**, age 89, a 65 year resident of Tinley Park, passed away July 31, 2016. Married to June "Koehler" for 65 years. Life member of Trinity Lutheran Church, served in U.S. Army, volunteered on many TP boards and commissions. Joe and his wife June were among the founding members of the Tinley Park Historical Society more than 40 years ago.



## Exciting Recent Events at the Tinley Park Historical Society

By Ed Siemsen

**School District 140** – We had our spring tours of our Museums with the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders of School District 140. The students toured our museums, played a scavenger hunt, asked lots of questions and really enjoyed their day. There were a total of 500 students that participated over a period of four days, along with their teachers and chaperones. It was a fun time for all, including our volunteers!



**Zion Lutheran Church** – We were honored to be asked by Zion Lutheran Church to host their 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the church at the Zion Landmark Chapel and Historical Society. This was the long time home of the Zion Lutheran Church congregation. They also celebrated the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sunday school. A church service was held in the Landmark Chapel (Old Zion), along with a potluck luncheon following the service, and was attended by 200 members and guests.

**An Afternoon at the Old Schoolhouse** – This fun activity has become an annual event and was attended by 25 local children. Held in June, our retired teachers, Connie Pavur and Karen Pursley, led the children on an adventure of a typical school day in the late 1800s. The kids wrote with quill pens, used chalk and slate, and enjoyed games and activities of that time period. Special guests at the school day were Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Tinley (our own Julie & Kurt Dekker), and Farmer Ed Siemsen.



**Memorial Service** – A memorial service was held at the Landmark Chapel for Don Goesel. Don carved the Totem Pole which stands outside the museum complex. Don passed away on May 22<sup>nd</sup> while in Florida. The memorial service was attended by an estimated 200 family and friends.

**Caribbean Block Party** – The Tinley Park Historical Society joined with the Village of Tinley Park in the Caribbean Block Party on July 17<sup>th</sup>. The village provided many activities, and we opened the doors of our museums for tours and an **old-fashioned ice cream social**. It was a fun time for all.



We have been busy this spring and early summer with these events, and many more. We could not do this without our volunteers who contribute to our great success. We thank the following:

Brad Bettenhausen  
Julie and Kurt Dekker  
Carol Ferkula  
Ray Gustafson  
Bruce Hafner  
Gerda and Jerry Hug  
Mary Ann Marino  
Lori Mason  
Carol and Ron Otto  
Connie Pavur  
Karen and Phil Pursley  
Pat Rea  
Chris Roche  
Patricia Siemsen  
John Szaton

**Thank You!**

### Board of Directors

|                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| President      | Ed Siemsen        |
| 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

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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 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

