

# New Bremen News

of the

## Tinley Park Historical Society

“Working on the Future of Our Past”

Volume 33, Number 01

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Mary Ann Marino, Editor  
Brad Bettenhausen, Historian

Tinley Park is involved in the Sister Cities Program, a nationwide initiative to exchange ideas, develop business ties and establish friendships between communities here in the U.S. and those across the world.

One of Tinley Park's sister communities is Büdingen, located about 30 miles northeast of Frankfurt in Germany. Büdingen traces its origins to the mid-13th century, or 234 years before Columbus discovered America. Büdingen's rich cultural history has been a fascinating study for the hundreds of Tinley Park residents, municipal officials and business people who have traveled to Büdingen since 1989, and local "natives" have proudly showed off the Village and related its history to more than 500 visitors from Büdingen.

### Special Visitors to our Historical Society & Museum Campus

We were honored to have visitors from our sister city, Budingen, Germany. A delegation of 19 people, including Burgermeister Erich Spamer, visited our Tinley Park Historical Society on Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Ed Siemsen, President of the Society, welcomed the visitors, as well as the host families who attended. Our guests enjoyed a walk-through of our two museum buildings, including the Landmark Chapel.

It was a pleasure to talk one-to-one with those visitors. After touring the museums and explaining our many exhibits, we showed them a very old journal, written in old German. It was intriguing to all. We asked if anyone in the group might be able to translate the journal for us. Many tried, but it proved to be a real challenge to all. We determined that even though it was written in German, it is written in a very old style, no longer used today. The journal also contains intricate drawings which appeared to be illustrations of knitting or embroidery patterns. The drawings were so intricate; each must have taken several hours to be drawn. At the back of the journal, is a secret code – what fun to try and figure out its meaning! One of our visitors volunteered to ask an acquaintance, familiar with Old German, to attempt to translate a few pages on our behalf. If you would like to see the journal when you visit our museum, just ask one of our staff who will be happy to show it to you.

A special thank you to Marilyn Bill for all her work in organizing the Sister Cities event, and including the Historical Society on their agenda. Thank you to our volunteers who helped to make this visit so delightful, and to all of you.

It was great fun visiting with our friends from “across-the-pond”, and we hope to see them again soon!

## Mayor Rose Brown

By Patricia Moran Siemsen

I would like to introduce Mrs. Rose Brown. Mrs. Brown lived at 16820 Oak Park Avenue, with her husband Douglas Brown and children. They moved to Tinley Park in 1938. The house still stands today. With the exception of a deck that has been added to the front of the house, it is pretty much original. The backyard has since been blacktopped for a parking lot, as the house has been used for various commercial businesses throughout the years.

I was a good friend of Rose's oldest daughter, Evelyn. We played many rainy days in her backyard chicken house. No chickens – just a lot of fun on a rainy day! While we were playing, her mom was preparing dinner, and invited me to stay. I was told we were having chicken. When they asked me how I liked it, I told them it was delicious! They all started to laugh, and said it was really rabbit. I could not believe it, but I think I ate the Easter Bunny! But it really was delicious.

The backyard of Mrs. Brown's house ended in a field and led to New England Avenue which is where I lived. We played many games there: softball, hide-and-seek, jump rope, Kick-the-can, and so much more! After one day of fun, I decided to walk home through the field. It had rained the day before, and the ground was wet and muddy. As I walked along, in my knee-high red rubber boots, I started to sink into the ground. I was up to my knees in mud and could not get out! I hollered and screamed but no one heard me. I felt like I was sinking further down in the mud. I finally managed to pull my feet out of the boots, and crawled to the side. I ran all the way home in my stocking feet. Those boots are probably still buried in that field! We had some adventures and Mrs. Brown always put up with us.

Rose Brown was an attorney, having graduated from Loyola Law School. She practiced law from her home.

In 1949, Rose was interested in submitting names to the mayor to fill 3 upcoming open trustee positions, as well as mayor. She submitted her suggestions to Mayor Wesley Stemm, who declined to do anything with the names. He turned to Mrs. Brown, and said "you run"! And, so she did. At that time, there were few banners and posters, and little or no campaign funds, just word of mouth. Town meetings were held at the Tinley Park Grade School and also Saenger Hall. These meetings were very popular, and generally very well attended.

Rose Brown won that election, and to quote Mrs. Brown, it was just a "small vote". Hers was quite an accomplishment for a woman of Italian heritage, to win the office of Mayor, in a town dominated by people of German heritage. She accomplished many things during her term of office, 1949-1953. A bond was issued for sewers for the Parkside subdivision, major improvement to the Police department with the hiring 2 additional police officers, and implemented the use of a two-way radio system with the county. Mayor Brown was also very instrumental in the chlorination of our drinking water, as recommended by the Public Health Department. The job of mayor was not an easy one, paying only \$60.00 every six months. Mrs. Brown didn't do it for the pay; rather, she genuinely wanted to help the people in the village.

In 1952 tragedy struck as Mayor Brown's brother, Anthony Ippolito and his wife Camille, were killed in a train wreck in Wyoming. Anthony was an Orthopedic Surgeon. They left three children. Mayor Brown petitioned for guardianship of the children, Anthony 10, Valerie 7, and Gregory 2. Mayor Brown was awarded custody of the children, doubling the size of

## *Rose Marie Ippolito BROWN*

*August 15, 1913 - September 08, 2010*

her family (at the time her own children were Evelyn 11, Edward 10 and Barbara 9). This meant adding bedrooms upstairs to accommodate all of the children, adjusting the family schedule of housework and homework, and continuing the work of mayor. Quite an accomplishment!

Mayor Brown passed away on September 8, 2010, at the age of 97. She still holds the record of being the only woman Mayor of Tinley Park, and the first woman Mayor in Cook County.

I believe that although being of Italian heritage, she made the best spaghetti in our little town. That rabbit she made for dinner many years ago was pretty good too!



Cookeville, TN resident and Chicago, IL native Rose Marie Ippolito Brown, age 97, was born August 15, 1913 and died September 8, 2010 at her residence following a lingering illness. Mrs. Brown studied law and received her degree from Loyola University, and practiced law from an office in her home. She also served as Mayor of her home town, Tinley Park, IL. She the daughter of the late Frank and Mary Mauro Ippolito and was a member of the Catholic Church. She was married in 1935 to Douglas F. Brown who preceded her in death September 21, 1988. In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by two sons, Edward F. Brown and Tony Ippolito; sister, Theresa DiGiovanni and brother, Sam Ippolito. She is survived by three daughters and son-in-law, Evelyn and Dr. James "Jim" Breyer of Cookeville, TN, Barbara Christian of Nashville, TN and Valerie Volkert; son and daughter-in-law, Greg and Cheryl Ippolito of Lebanon, TN; eight grandchildren, Todd Breyer, Lisa Bajar, Greg Breyer, Tod Christian, Kim Johnson, Cam Volkert, Kris Mock and Debbie Brown and eight great-grandchildren, Shawn Breyer, Brianna and Jackson Breyer, Hannah and Ethan Breyer, Sophia and Emily Mock and Chloe Conn. Funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, September 11, 2010 at Grace Chapel United Methodist Church with Clayton Jones officiating. Burial followed in the Grace Chapel Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Grace Chapel Cemetery Fund, c/o Odessa Brown, P.O. Box 106, Beersheba Springs, TN 37305.

## CHICKEN HOUSES OR COOPS

By Ed Siemsen



The chicken houses and chicken coops were a big part of Tinley Park History. They were oddly shaped buildings and some had small windows. The chicken coops sat in the back yards of the houses. At one time, almost every house in Tinley Park had a chicken coup in the back yard.

A real estate salesman from Chicago, named Grover Elmore, moved to Tinley Park and established the Elmore Real Estate Company. Between 1929–1931, he purchased property between 40–100 acres. Grover Elmore established many subdivisions including Tinley Park Estates, Oak Park Estates, Harlem Estates, and Ridgeland Estates.

He attracted people to the country, where there was lots of fresh air, transportation such the Rock Island ran thru town, also, you could have garden to offset expenses. Along with the purchase of a house, you would receive a chicken coup and 500 - 1000 chickens. This was also a way to supplement your expenses and feed your family. You could sell the eggs for extra money. Mr. Elmore also provided training on how to raise and care for the chickens. As most of the new comers had no idea how to care for chickens. Elmore also sold feed, equipment and all types of supplies. He had all the bases covered, from before they hatched to when they were sold.

The subdivision lot sizes were about 80 X 80 or 100 X 200. Elmore would either build per plan, or build per the owners plan. In six months in 1931 Elmore built 25 houses, including some that were shells. The houses were mostly frame and 2 bedrooms.

We found a map at the Tinley Park Historical Society that showed the location of many of the chicken houses in the area. We took a ride to take pictures of the chicken coops, but progress has come along, and all the chicken houses that once stood, were gone. We were able to locate one that was still standing at 6950 W. 171<sup>st</sup> Street Tinley Park.

I believe that Mr. Elmore contributed to the growth of our town by drawing people into town, buying land and or a house, and starting a business. Times change, today people in Tinley Park are appearing before the village Board to get permits to raise chickens.

Tinley Park does allow chickens. No Roosters, and they limit the number of chickens to four. The rules are very strict, you must submit a plan, you also need to secure a permit to build your coop, and there are special requirements, cannot create noise, your coop must be a certain number of feet away from your neighbor's property, etc. It is funny – how what goes around comes around. Now when you drive through town you can find chicken coops and chickens in the neighborhood. This article is reprinted here, and was previously broadcast on You Tube for Discover Tinley in 2018.

## A Merry Christmas from Days of Yore

By Phil Pursley

I remember walking with my mother on a very cold Christmas Eve to pick out a Christmas tree at the VFW. I think they had discounted them to 50 cents. Of course, there wasn't much selection and the one we eventually picked out would have been better placed in a dark corner rather than the center of our living room. My father wasn't with us because he always had to work on Christmas Eve. He was a US Post Office Letter Carrier. Back in those days (early 1950s) letter carriers (he always preferred to be called that rather than mailman) made very little money compared to factory workers, tradesmen, etc. A good thing about his job working on Christmas Eve (mandatory and never overtime) was that he received gifts from people on his route, including money and even liquor from those stores that he delivered mail to. The problem for my mother, who managed the money, was getting to Christmas. That's why the 50 cent tree!

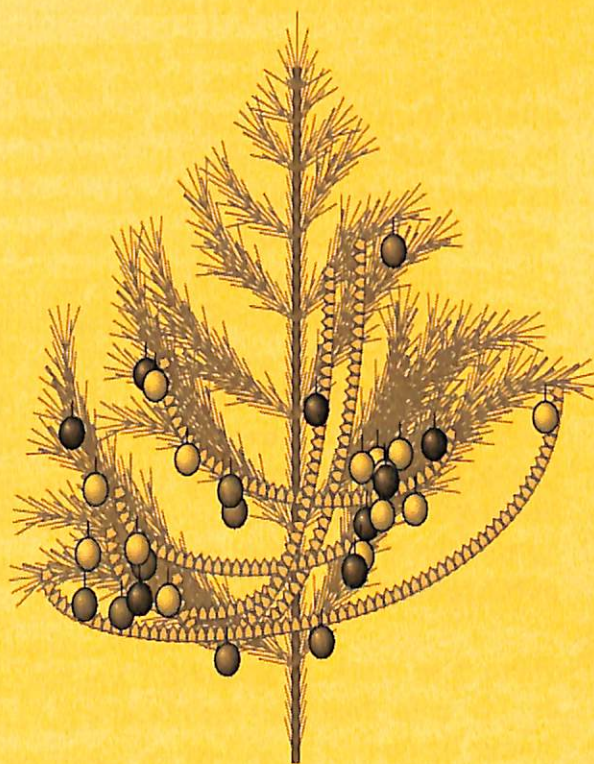
I remember that after reading a story about flocking your own tree, she decided that perhaps this was the solution to this particular tree. A box of Ivory flakes (remember those?), her handy "mix-master", and a guaranteed no-fail recipe. We first decorated the tree with lights and limited decorations, including our homemade ornaments from Tinley Park School. After this was done, we proceeded to try and turn this tree into a winter wonderland. Needless to say, it was a bit of a disaster with white, gooey "snow" dripping on to ornaments, lights, and finally, the floor. Very little covered the branches.

I don't think she ever tried to flock another tree again.

If you want to try it yourself, here's a recipe for that old-fashioned flocking. Good luck!

2 cups Ivory soap flakes  
2/3 cup liquid starch  
4 TBSP hot water  
Glitter and 2 drops of blue food coloring

Throw it all in your mix-master, turn it on high, and beat to fluffy, or you can go online and check this out via an updated version at <http://craftthyme.com/soap-tree-flocking>.



## Visit the Vogt House

By Julie Dekker

The large white Victorian style home of one of Tinley Parks most prominent citizens of our past is one of the few treasures in our town that still hold a place in our hearts today.

The Henry Vogt house stands at 17420 S. 67<sup>th</sup> Ct in the heart of downtown Tinley Park. I have spent the last 20 years of my life in that house in one capacity or another; first, as an art student, then a volunteer, and presently as the Gallery Director of the Vogt Visual Arts Center for the past eleven years.

Since 1996 the Vogt Visual Arts Center has brought countless people into Henry's house. Most come to learn about art, but many learn some history as well.

Henry's life was not the idyllic life of a carefree farm boy. He lost his father when he was just a year old. His stepfather banished him from his home at the tender age of 11. He attended business school in Chicago at 16 and worked in the big city until the Great Chicago Fire destroyed the store he clerked in. At 19, he owned his first business, a saloon and small store. He traveled extensively, owned real estate and helped create our first bank. Henry opened the largest department store in town and by the age of 39, served as the first mayor of the town he helped to build and name.

There is so much more to his story as well as his wife Matilda, their children and unique home that they lived in. Each year I give tours of the house and share their story with hundreds of school children,

scouts, senior groups and visitors to our town, but my favorite visitors are the people who live right here in Tinley Park. Those who always wondered what the "big white house" is all about.

This year I had the pleasure of telling Henry's story to Burgermeister Spamer and a contingent of citizens from Budingen Germany, as well as appearing on Tinley TV with other members of the Historical Society to do a segment on the Vogt House.

At the Historical Society we have several albums filled with Vogt family photos and history that were created by family members, and quite a few artifacts from Henry's businesses.

My need to learn the history of the Vogt family is what brought me to the Historical Society in the first place. I consider it a privilege to be able to share the story of the Vogt's and their home.

Stop in for a tour sometime, or schedule one for your group. I'd love to show you around.



## What's been happening at the museum?

- Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> Girl Scout Troop 938 tour, 12 girls, leaders and families.
- Apr. 7<sup>th</sup> Fulton School 3<sup>rd</sup> grade tour, students, teachers and parents
- May 8<sup>th</sup> Boy Scout Troop 398 tour, 15 Cubs, leaders and parents.
- Sept 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Event – An Afternoon at the Old Schoolhouse, 20 students, hosted by teachers Connie Pavur and Karen Pursley, and aides Mary Ann Marino, Pat Siemsen, Carol Ferkula. Special visitors Inventor John Rauhoff (portayed by John Szaton), and "Farmer" Ed Siemsen, stopped by to entertain the students with tales of old.
- Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> Sister City Budingén Visit and Tour, 20 visitors hosted by Marilyn Bell
- Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> Bannes School 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Tour, 65 students, teachers and chaperones.

## New Display Completed

In west room of Chapel Museum, our volunteers led by Bruce Haffner, have created a military display of uniforms, information and items to commemorate the service of men and women from the area. A highlight of this exhibit is our display of military uniforms from area servicemen and women. The Grand Union Flag which adorns the wall behind the uniforms, is a reproduction of one of the first flags adopted by the US on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1775 and used until June 14, 1777.

We have made changes to the adjoining room, which was primarily focused on Oktoberfest. The Oktoberfest exhibit now shares space with exhibits highlighting our Sister City Budingén, and John Poorman Chicken Farm.

## Far Away Visitors

Jessica and Randy Rippe – Foley, AL  
Diane Grandchamp – Monon, IN  
Barbara Ann Schiolling-Durkef – Fort Collins, CO  
Jean Markise – Earlington, FL  
Jura (Maria) Zymantas – Barcelona, Spain  
Mordier Family – Budingén, Germany

## New Members

Greg King – Tinley Park, IL  
Marilyn and Richard Gortowski – Tinley Park, IL  
Alan Putz – Chicago, IL  
David Zima – Mokena, IL

## Donations in Memory of Colleen Simon

Karen and Phil Pursley  
Ed and Pat Siemsen

## Supporting Donations

Alice Ficker  
Sharon Hulstch-Reimer  
Dr. William Hoffman  
Marilyn and Richard Gortowski  
Edith DeValk  
Arlene and Jack Moloney  
Ed Zabrocki  
David Zima  
June Staackmann

## Local Business Supporting Donations

Meier Foods – Orland Park  
Jewel Foods – Tinley Park  
McDonalds – Tinley Park  
Walgreens – Tinley Park  
Walts Foods – Tinley Park

## Recent Donations – Thank You!

- Thomas Healy** From Great Grandfather Earl Leider, former owner of Bachelors Grove Hall, 4 photos of interior and exterior of Bachelors Grove Hall.
- Marilyn Pringle** Photos of Sister City Budinggen, slides of Lancaster Homes, kitchen and sewing memorabilia, wooden library index box.
- Marilyn Bill** three S & H Green Stamp books
- Cynthia Close** 1896 Citizenship document of Cook County IL from Huigh Murphy.
- Connie Pavur** 1939 Edison Typist training manual
- Bonnie Mager** 1972 Bremen Bank Anniversary Plate, 1986 Oktoberfet memorabilia, box of papers purchased from garage sale at former Justice of the POeace Howlett's house at 173<sup>rd</sup> & 68<sup>th</sup> Court.
- Phil Pursley** Large wheeled luggage bag to carry new projector equipment; 2014 soft cover book *The Stories of Chief White Eagle*
- John Szaton** 1971 The Whole Earth Catalog, display of tools
- Sunny Lentz** 1900 9"x10" family album, cloth covered, embossed flowers.
- Larry Rothenberg** 6 photos of past chicken houses around town with address of location
- Allen Krueger** 1928 Handmade autograph book from Aunt Adeline Reiher 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Trinity Lutheran school, 3 wood and metal head restraints for cows in milking status.
- Tom Roesner** WWII military cap from father GC Roesner with American Legion Post 615.
- Bruce Haffner** WWII aluminum canteen
- Karen Grefe** Dual wood and metal buggy horse hook-up from Hogar Farm.
- Robert Bettenhausen** TP Fire Department assorted buttons and lapel pins, pins from Budinggen, Germany.
- Phyllis & Paul Ebbeling** 1930-51 WLS Radio Family albums  
1933 Official photo of 1933 World's Fair, 1974 new TP Library dedication, 2000 Ind. Newspaper article – plane crash and death of Tony Bettenhausen, Small TYCO Electric Train and Tracks,  
China antique ornamental lamp, 28x48 solid oak parlor table from mother and grandparents
- Lucille Staack Family** Plastic key of from Tinley Park Frozen Food Locker, wooden winter sleds
- Lorie and Scott Mason** Primitive wood handle scythe, "Webster for Mayor" wooden sign, 1960s Jaycee Memorabilia, Robert Mason Trustee
- Sieglinde Hushorn-Engler** During Budinggen Sister City visit – donated 2 metal pins and black 5" black rock with green frog logo.



Tinley Park Historical Society  
Historic Ornament Series  
2018 Issue; Thirtieth and Final in the Series



The 2018 edition of the Tinley Park Historical Society's Historic Ornament Series features the "Old Zion Landmark" Chapel and Museum Campus of the Tinley Park Historical Society. This ornament marks the thirtieth and final issue of this glass ornament series.

Like bookends, the series has started and ended with the Tinley Park Historical Society's home since 1975.

The centerpiece of the Historical Society's museum campus continues to be the "Old Zion Landmark" church building dating to 1884. The church was built for the Zion Lutheran congregation which traces its origins within the community to 1872. The congregation used this church until its present location (at 171<sup>st</sup> Street between 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> Avenues) was completed in 1955. The building was then purchased by the Church of Christ (now Parkview Christian Church). The facilities were expanded in 1959 to add a social hall and classrooms. The property was acquired for the Tinley Park Historical Society in 1975, preserving this historic structure while adapting it to become a local history museum and home to the Historical Society. The classrooms now serve as a portion of the Historical Society's museum campus, and we now refer to the meeting room as the "New Saenger Hall" in homage to the historic gathering place that once sat nearby on 67<sup>th</sup> Court. The church sanctuary continues to be used as a chapel for weddings and auditorium for other meetings and events.

The museum campus has been expanded with the addition of a reproduction of a building that had served as an early one-room schoolhouse and the first Village Hall. The original building had been constructed in 1880, replacing an earlier school dating to 1863. The building also served as the Village Hall for Tinley Park from 1892 to 1954. The current structure is located only a few hundred feet from where the original building once stood on 174<sup>th</sup> Place. Other than utilizing the space of the former cloak rooms for a stairwell and washroom facilities, the new building otherwise replicates the original structure. The building houses the Historical Society's library of historic and genealogical reference materials as well as displays of artifacts related to Tinley Park and the area's history.

A totem pole carved by Donald Goesel stands prominently on the museum campus green. The pole combines traditional Native American totems such as the bear, which represents strength; the beaver, which represents industry; and turtles, which are commonly found in the local countryside, as both a pictorial and symbolic tribute to the qualities possessed by the early settlers to this area. The pole is inscribed with the names associated with Don's family whose ancestors settled here in 1868 on the property now known as Camp Sullivan of the Cook County with the names of Christian and Dorothea Goesel and their 10 children: Louis, Minnie, Emma, Katie, Ed, Berthold, Charles, Christian, Mary and Amelia who had once lived on the former Goeselville site.

# We Remember

It is with deep sadness that the Tinley Park Historical Society regrets to announce the passing of two cherished members of our Historical Society family.

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## Marvin W. Block

Marvin W. Block, July 8, 2018. Marvin, aged 92, was a World War II Veteran. He was beloved husband for 67 years to Marian, nee Ries, Loving father of Cynthia (Alan) Szymanski, and Andrew (Linda) Block. Cherished grandfather of Paul (Amanda) Szymanski, April Szymanski, Anne (John) Robinson, Melanie and Carl Block. Dearest great-grandfather of Logan and Alexa. Dear brother of Gladys Block and the late Dolores Von Gruenigen.

Marvin was an educator of History at Bremen and Tinley Park High Schools, retiring from teaching in 1994.

He was a founding member and longtime volunteer of the Tinley Park Historical Society, with his wife Marion.

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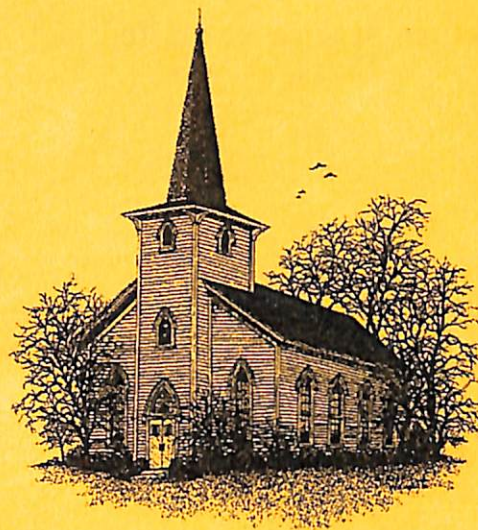
## June Koehler Staackman

June Koehler Staackman, aged 88, passed away on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Proud lifelong Tinley Park resident, and of Trinity Lutheran Church. Beloved wife of the late Joachim W. Staackmann. Dear cousin and aunt to many. June was a lifelong resident of Tinley and was a lifelong member of Trinity Lutheran Church. June's family is one of the original homesteader's of Tinley Park. she was a longtime volunteer and supporter of both the Matteson and Tinley Park Historical societies.

June Staackman was a founding member of the Tinley Park Historical Society. Active in the Society for more than 44 years, she was instrumental in establishing many project, including interviews with many of our senior citizens in town. She was also an active member and supporter of the Matterson Historical Society. She was preceded in death by her husband, who also was active in the Tinley Park Historical Society.

### Board of Directors

President Ed Siemsen  
Vice President Phil Pursley  
Secretary Patricia Siemsen  
Treasurer Brad Bettenhausen, President Emeritus & Historian  
Director Julie Dekker  
Director Kurt Dekker  
Director Bruce Haffner  
Director Jerry Hug  
Director Mary Ann Marinio  
Director Pat Rea  
Director John Szaton



### Historical Society Office (708) 429-4210

Landmark Chapel and Museum  
6727 W 174th Street  
Tinley Park, IL 60477

## Tinley Park Historical Society Membership Registration **\*INVOICE\***

**Payment due between January 1st and March 31st of every calendar year.**

Please make checks payable to Tinley Park Historical Society

All contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <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* |

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 \_\_\_\_\_

\*includes one use of the Landmark facilities.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email address \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: **Tinley Park Historical Society**

6727 W 174th Street  
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## 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

