

New Bremen News

of the

Tinley Park Historical Society

“Working on the Future of Our Past”

Volume 32, Number 01

May 2018

Mary Ann Marino, Editor
Brad Bettenhausen, Historian

The annual meeting and election of the Tinley Park Historical Society Board of Directors was held in February. The following members were elected to two year terms.

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

President's note: I would like to recognize the following volunteers who help make a great success the happenings at the Historical Chapel and Museums: Mary Ann Marino, Connie Pavur, Julie and Kurt Dekker, Rita Savare, Carol Ferkula, Gerda and Jerry Hug, Carol and Ron Otto, John Szaton, Phil Pursley, Bruce Haffner, Ray Gustafson, Pat Siemsen, and Brad Bettenhausen...Thank you, Ed.

Mark your Calendar!!!

- June 27th Outreach Program by Phil Pursley & Volunteers of the Tinley Park Historical Society.
7pm, Frankfort Garden Club
Founders Community Center
140 Oak Street, Frankfort
- July 15th Tribute to the 1960s at the Landmark Chapel
- September 16th An Afternoon at the Old Schoolhouse, Landmark Chapel and Museum
Participation is free, however only 20 spots are available. Please contact Connie Pavur
(708) 532-6835.



Julie Dekker
Tinley Park Historical Society

Meet "Flat Sam"

By Julie Dekker

The Tinley Park Historical Society is excited to introduce **Flat Sam**. He is our cartoon version of Samuel Tinley, who served as the village's first railroad station agent from 1854 until 1880. At that time, our village of New Bremen had a population of 210 people. Although Samuel passed away in 1882, his name lives on to this day. In 1891 on New Year's Day, our village changed its name from New Bremen to Tinley Park, presumably in recognition of Samuel who served the village for over 25 years. Now, over 127 years later, more than 56,000 people call Tinley Park home, the place that both Samuel Tinley and the Rock Island Railroad put on the map.

The purpose of **Flat Sam** is to connect Tinley Park with people and places all over the world. Pictures of **Flat Sam** are available in the Tinley Park Historical Society 6727 W 174th Street, or you can download a copy from our Facebook page "**Flat Sam Travels the World**". Simply color Sam any way you like, cut him out, laminate or mount him to heavier paper (to help him last longer), and he is ready to go!

There are several ways to utilize "**Flat Sam**". He can be mailed to family and friends living in other states and countries. Have them take pictures of Sam somewhere in their lives and share them with you and in turn, with us. Be sure to get the location details! You can also take Sam with you when you travel and photograph him in iconic spots and points of interest or maybe just lying on the beach!

Sam can also be mailed off to celebrities, politicians, musicians, or other popular people. There is no telling where Sam could end-up.

This program is modeled after the Flat Stanley project that started in 1995 by Dale Hubert, a third grade teacher in London, Ontario, Canada. Its purpose was to promote interest in learning about different people and places. By 2006 the

Program had grown to 6000 classes in 47 nations.

Flat Stanley has been photographed with presidents Barack Obama, George Bush, and Bill Clinton. He has traveled on Air Force One and even orbited the earth on the space shuttle Discovery. Stanley has also appeared on the Red Carpet, the Tonight Show, and with celebrities like Mohammed Ali, Peyton Manning, and Willie Nelson. Needless to say, we have high hopes for **Flat Sam**! With social media, the possibilities are endless.

The Tinley Park Historical Society will post all of the photos on our Facebook Page, "**Flat Sam Travels the World**", similar to our Follow the Flag program. If you are not familiar with it, Follow the Flag is where Tinley Park residents borrow a village flag through the historical society and take it with them when they travel. Photos are taken holding the flag at places of interest all over the world. And shared on that Facebook page "**Follow the Flag of Tinley Park as it Travels the World**". Our flag has been to several well-known destinations in the United States, and several countries including Antarctica, Ireland, Mexico, France, Australia, New Zealand and many other countries and destinations.

With your help we can have fun sharing Tinley Park and its history with people all over the world. For more information on these programs, please contact the Tinley Park Historical Society is (708) 429-4210.

Start Flat Sam on his journey today... simply cut out him out, follow the directions above, and send him on his way!



Do You Remember the 1960s?

By Patricia Moran Siemsen and
Ed Siemsen

When we shopped at the National Tea Company, we received S&H Green Stamps for our purchases. We saved the stamps, and pasted them into a book. When the book was filled, we would redeem them for merchandise.



Milk was 49 cents a gallon! Gasoline was 31 cents per gallon! An attendant at the gas station would not only pump the gas, but clean your windows, check your oil, and the air in your tires. Remember the "ding ding"? Some of the Gas stations in Tinley Park were Lee Uhers at 175th and Oak Park, John Fancy's at 159th and Oak Park, and Lehman's at 167th and Oak Park. A dollar in the tank could go far!

Minimum wage in 1960 was \$1.00 per hour. It went up to \$1.60 in 1968!



Tinley Park High School opened in 1961. Prior to the school opening, students would ride the school bus to Bremen High School in Midlothian. Our own high school was a big step for our town.

We will never forget the snowstorm in April in 1961. It started out as a quiet day. Mom Dorothy Moran, Mother-in-law Dorothy Siemsen and Lorine Gray took the kids to play at Tinley Park Grade School. We enjoyed the play and finally headed for home. It started to snow a little, but nothing major. My Husband, Ed, his father Hilbert Siemsen, and my dad Bob Moran had gone on a fishing trip to Kentucky. Well, they started home from their trip but didn't get too far. They were forced to stop because traffic could not get through. The snow was falling fast and furious. Back home in Tinley, folks were leaving their cars along Oak Park Avenue, and they could go no farther! In a week it was all gone! Who would expect such a snowstorm in the middle of April? Mother nature had a nice laugh, and we were left with these memories.

We had some wonderful, local restaurants in Tinley Park. Jardine's was always a favorite...loved their fried chicken. We went to Dini's for the Friday night fish fry. A&W was a favorite place for the teens...root beer, cokes, burgers and fries. Carhops wore roller skates and would take your order at your car.



Saenger Hall was the place to celebrate, and celebrate good times, we did! Whatever the occasion, weddings, Fire Department dances, reunions, community events, it was the place to go. So many happy times were celebrated in that old building. Sadly, Saenger Hall burned in 19162 and never re-opened. Our community hall located in the Landmark Chapel is named in memory of that much beloved meeting hall.



Another historic building was also lost in the 1960s. Located just across the street from Saenger Hall, Vogt's Department was lost to fire in 1967. Vogt's was a great store! As you walked in the front door, the right side of the building was filled with textiles, the back was the butcher's shop, and the left side was groceries. Down the wide staircase were men's work clothes and many other essential items. Vogt was one of the few businesses which offered credit, allowing you to charge your groceries and pay for them at the end-of-the-week. Vogt's was in business for more than a century. It was a terrific blow to the community when it closed.

The opening of I-80 in the 1960s brought a new era to Tinley Park, and with it brought new jobs, new homes and new people. The population of Tinley Park was 2,326 in 1950, 6,400 in 1960 and more than 12,000 in 1970. Our town has grown and continues to grow today.

The Village Tree

By Patricia Siemsen

I am sure that everyone is familiar with the famous poem, "Trees", by Joyce Kilmer (1886-1918) reprinted here.

*I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.*

*A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;*

*A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;*

*A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;*

*Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.*

*Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.*

Did you know that Tinley Park has a village tree? In the early 70's the Environmental Board of Tinley Park designated the Linden tree as the official village tree. The linden tree was chosen in remembrance of the Linden Garden in Tinley Park. The Linden Garden was behind Saenger Hall, located at 174th and 67th Court.



What significance did the Linden tree have to our town? It is believed to have been brought to Tinley Park by the German immigrants who established our village. In Germany, the Linden tree was highly symbolic and hallowed tree, in their native pre-Christian mythology. Local communities assembled not only to celebrate and dance under the Linden tree, but also held their judicial meetings to restore justice and peace. The Linden tree was not native to the United States.

Tinley's Linden Garden was used for many occasions, such as picnics, parties, reunions, etc. It was a well-known gathering place for both young and old. It was because of its status, the Environmental Board felt it appropriate to name the Linden tree the official tree of Tinley Park.



I was proud to serve on the Environmental board at that time, and to be a part of the decision making process. Sadly, the Linden trees that were part of the Linden Garden are long gone; however, due to the efforts of the Environmental Commission, their beauty can still be enjoyed today. As you walk, or drive down Oak Park Avenue, you'll notice several adorning either side of the street. In spring, they showcase their beautiful white blooms. This is our village tree, the Linden Tree. They are a beautiful sight to see in the springtime and a pleasant reminder of the linden Garden of earlier days.



TP Historical Society's new Outreach Program

By Phil Pursley



The Tinley Park Historical Society now has developed a special outreach program where we come to your group and give a presentation with photos, videos, a talk about the history of Tinley and area, etc. Our first program was held September 13, 2017 with a visit to Tinley Park's First Baptist Church. After our presentation they shared a unique photo of their first congregation meeting at The Old Zion Lutheran Church, dated Feb. 7, 1954. On February 20 we gave a presentation to a Jewish retirement club at the Temple Anshe Sholom in Olympia Fields. Our next scheduled event will take place on Wednesday, June 27 starting at 7 P.M. for the "Frankfort Area Garden Club" at Founders Community Center 140 Oak Street, Frankfort.

If you're in a group that would like a special presentation please give us a call at 708 429-4210.

All programs are absolutely free!

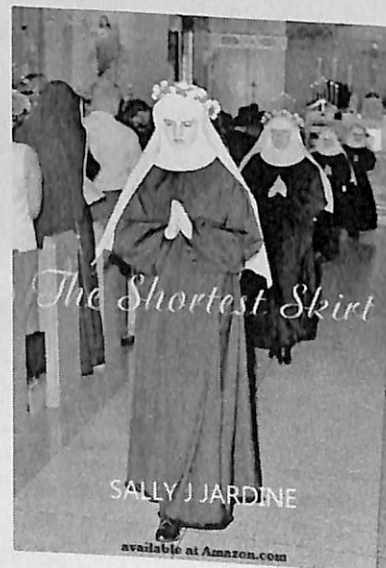
History
is WHO we are and
WHY we are the WAY we are.
History is not just the *Past*.
History is the **PRESENT**.

Book Signing, Meet & Greet with Sally Jardine

Where you raised Catholic? Did you go to St. George School? Do you remember Father O'Connell and those Nuns in their full habits with those clicking rosaries? Especially do you remember going to Jardine's Restaurant for their fried chicken and their marvelous Smorgasbord? If so come out to The Tinley Park Historical Society on Sunday, August 19 and meet Sally Jardine, author of The Shortest Skirt, a 1960's story of her entering the convent and what happened to her.

Sally is from Tinley Park and the daughter of Ralph & Pearl Jardine who were the owners of Jardine's Restaurant.

Where: The Tinley Park Historical Society's Landmark Chapel, 6727 W 174th Street, Sunday, August 19 from 2 until 4 P.M. Light snacks and book signing to follow Ms. Jardine's presentation. BTW, *The Shortest Skirt* is available via Amazon.com and will also be available with a limited supply at this event.



One Special Memory of the 1967 Blizzard

By Phil Pursley

I was a senior at Millikin University, Decatur, IL. On January 26, 1967 I and a lot of other Millikin students left for home to enjoy the semester break. Back in those days semester finals were given several weeks after coming back from Christmas break. After getting to the Decatur Trail Ways Bus Station I began my trip to Tinley Park planning on being picked up in Harvey by my father. In those days I-57 hadn't been built yet and traveling two lane roads was the norm. As we left Decatur it started to snow and snow and snow. The bus driver after communications with his h.q. decided to take us to Champaign and the I. C. train station using our TrailWay tickets. We boarded the train for Chicago.

Now our real adventure started. I remember the engineer telling the passengers that he would try to make it to Hazel Crest. After 8 hours on the train we made it. This is where I and another Millikin student, Jill Galloway, were in a quandary. It was late at night, there was nothing moving, roads were impassible, and the snow was still coming down - over an inch an hour eventually totaling 23 inches. Jill lived a couple miles from the train station, and we decided to walk to her house. Our suit cases and my musical instruments were left in a total stranger's home and thus another phase of our trip began.

A couple blocks along an older man sitting in his stuck car asked us to stay with him. He had a heart condition and wasn't dressed for this unexpected storm. We accepted his invite and spent the night in his car. The next morning with the snow abating

and this gentleman able to get help we finally made it to Jill's home where I spent the next two days until roads were finally cleared. What sticks out for me is how total strangers would help each other. By the way we got our suitcases and my instruments back from these strangers. They refused any compensation other than our thanks.

***A footnote: My father, after retiring from the US Post Office, drove a school bus for The Illinois School Bus Co. On Jan 26 there were many early school dismissals; He drove his charges to their homes in Phoenix. After dropping the kids off his bus became stuck, and total strangers in this all African-American Community took him in for two days. They refused any compensation. Afterwards my parents and this lovely couple became friends.*



Photo from National Weather Service Chicago; photo via Jeff Geisler.

A "Turn Back the Time" test for the 60s

By Connie Pavur

This may be harder than you think! The answers can be found elsewhere in the newsletter, but don't cheat!

1. After the Lone Ranger saved the day, and rode off into the sunset, the grateful citizens would ask, "Who was that masked man?". He always left an item behind...what was it?
2. When the Beatles first came to the United States in 1964, they appeared on this television show.
3. 'Get your _____.'
4. 'The story you are about to see is true. The names have been change _____.'
5. 'In the jungle, the mighty jungle, _____.'
6. After the Twist, Mashed Potato, and Watusi, we danced under a stick that was lowered as low as we could go. The dance was called the _____.
7. 'Nestles makes the very best... _____.'
8. Satchmo was America's "Ambassador of Goodwill". He was _____.
9. What takes a licking and keeps on ticking? _____.
10. Red Skelton's hobo character was named _____, and Red always ended his television show by saying 'God night and _____.'
11. Some Americans protested the Viet Nam war by burning their _____.
12. The cute little car with the engine in back and the trunk in front was made by Volkswagen; what nicknames did it go by? _____ and _____.
13. In 1971, singer Don MacLean sang a song about 'the day that music died'. This was a tribute to _____.
14. We can remember the first satellite that placed into orbit; the Russians did it. It was called _____.
15. One of the big fads of the late 50s and 60s was a large plastic ring that we twirled around our waist. It was called a _____.
16. Remember LS/MFT _____?
17. Hey kids, what time is it? It's _____.
18. Who knows what secrets lay in the hearts of men? Only the _____ knows!
19. There was a song that came out in the 60s that was a "grave yard smash". Its name was the _____.
20. Alka Seltzer used a "boy with a tablet on his head" as its logo. What was the boy's name? _____.



Note: Bring your completed test into the Tinley Park Historical Society and you will take home an ornament from our commemorative series.

Tinley Park
Historical Society
Landmark Chapel and Museums

The Tinley Park Historical Society Landmark Chapel and Museums, is an historic jewel, nestled within the side streets of this popular growing community. Built in 1884, the quaint chapel glows in the beautiful stained glass throughout, a pressed tin ceiling, and an organ to fill the air with music. Unlike huge city cathedrals and suburban mega-churches, the Landmark's subtle wooden pews seat 120 people with a wrapped balcony for 60 more. It is the perfect venue for many social events, including weddings, memorial services and civic events.

The downstairs hall at the Landmark may be rented for wedding receptions, showers, graduations, birthday parties, and other events. Its bright atmosphere is fantastic for small gatherings. The hall can hold 60 people, and with an attached kitchen it is convenient for the fully catered party or a simple pot of coffee.

The Tinley Park Historical Society maintains two museums on our campus. Located at the rear of the chapel, this museum exhibits larger relics from the history of Tinley Park and surrounding area. Here you will find exhibits detailing the early beginnings of the fire department, local school district, railroad, and windmill. Ladies will delight in our domestic's room which showcases a number of early bridal gowns, accessories, and clothing. Sports enthusiasts are entertained by our baseball display. Native American relics found here in Tinley Park, are on display, as are items from our far-away Sister City, Budingen, Germany.

Located adjacent to the chapel is our Schoolhouse Museum. A replica of one of the earliest one-room schoolhouses in the area, this building houses our reference library, and display cases exhibiting relics and memorabilia of home and farm life, military and civic displays, early church, school, business, and civic organizations. Antique toys evoke childhood memories from earlier times.

Each year, our museums play host to more than 500 school children, and scout groups. Special events, such as An Afternoon at the Old Schoolhouse, musical performances, fairs and festivals are well attended and offered free to the community throughout the year.

To further discuss the Landmark Chapel, call (708) 429-4210. There is always someone to speak to or visit with at the chapel on Wednesdays from 10am until 2pm, the first Sunday of the month from 1:00pm until 3:00, and the second Thursday of the month from 6:00pm until 8:00pm. Otherwise, please leave a message and your call will be promptly returned.

Have your next event at
Our Historic
Landmark Chapel



Donations to Historical Society

- Brad Bettenhausen** 2017 1st printing *Chicago Flash Back*
Dawn & Charlie Smith Painted, handmade small Christmas ornament of individual toys, houses and animals.
- Bruce Lorence** 1981 calendar from Bettenhausen Hardware, plastic beer mug from Ocktoberfest, Bremen Bank coaster, First Midwest Bank, lapel pins of Chicagoland Speedway 2001 Inaugural Season.
- Ray Gustafson** Picture book of 1933 Chicago World's Fair
Tom Woods From father 1951 Rock Island Railroad Engineer's time book.
Bruce Haffner Original 1979 display bag of four different cable ties from Panduit of Tinley Park.
Robert Bettenhausen Two photos of Rock Island RR train engines with passenger and box cars, west of Tinley at Mile Post #27, near 80th Avenue; brief history of local resident Roy Roemer.
- Orland Park Museum** Box of approximately 180 envelopes from Paddock Newspaper from 1970-1980 with negatives associated with TP events, buildings and individuals.
Herb Anderson 1955 CD of Parkside houses along Willow Lane.
Thomas Healy Four photos of circa 1944 Bachelors Grove Hall, inside and outside, located 145th & Justamere Rd.
- Phyllis & Paul Ebeling** 1963-1983 newspaper articles of Bettenhausen Racing Family, Tony, Valerie, Gary, Merle, and Tony Jr. 1990 Southtown photo and articles of Bettenhausen family reunion at farmhouse 171s7 & 80th Avenue; memorabilia from son Dean's participation in sports: 1951 basketball game Orland Park and Plainfield, 1975 Bulldogs football, 1977-80 TP High School basketball and football programs, 1986 Nov 30 Southtown Economist article and photos of TP High School winning Class AA State Football Championship, 1982 postcard from baseball Hall of Fame, from Eric "Moose" Nasebrandt, unique Christmas card with pop-up of Chicago White Sox baseball park.

New Members

Theresa and Dennis Kerlin

Supporting Donations

Lou Broccolo

Carol Ferkula

Kathy and Ted Siemsen

Carol and Roger Hug

Karen and Gerald Janacka

Dawn and Charlie Smith

Patrick Rea

Stephen Heise Family

Susan E. Twietmeyer

Local Businesses who have helped

Jewel/Osco

Meijer Foods

Walgreens

Walt's Foods

Ed & Joe's

Answers to 1960s Quiz

1) Silver bullet; 2) Ed Sullivan Show; 3) kicks on Route 66; 4) to protect the innocent; 5) the lion sleeps tonight; 6) Limbo; 7) chocolate; 8) Louis Armstrong; 9) Timex; 10) Freddy the Freeloader, God Bless; 11) draft cards; 12) beetle bug; 13) Buddy Holly; 14) Sputnik; 15) Hoola Hoop; 16) Lucky Strike means fine tobacco; 17) Howdy Doody Time; 18) Shadow; 19) Monster Mash; 20) Speedy.

Board of Directors

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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 _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip code _____

Phone _____ email address _____

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

6727 W 174th Street

Tinley Park, IL 60477

Tinley Park Historical Society

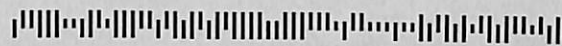
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Keep Us Up-to-Date...

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

