

TINLEY PARK HISTORY
NON-CIRC.

BREMEN BANK

TP History

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*A Shared
History of
Commitment*

TINLEY
PARK



Our new facility, now under construction,
to serve you at

16700 South 80th Avenue
Tinley Park, Illinois

Scheduled to Open
Spring of 1985

TINLEY PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
MON. THRU FRI. 9:00 A.M.-9:00 P.M.
SAT. 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

BREMEN BANK AND TRUST COMPANY; COMMUNITY AND COMMERCE IN TRANSITION

With a nearly three-quarter century history in providing full financial services to its customers in the southwestern Chicago suburbs, Bremen Bank and Trust Company continues to build a proud regional tradition as a first rate commercial lending and banking institution. As active participants in the same community life as their customers and neighbors, Bremen Bank's directors, officers, and staff share similar concerns and experiences. That common background creates a strong sense of community obligation at Bremen Bank. This obligation is expressed in delivery of modern, dependable, and personal banking services — a Bremen Bank trademark. Other area banks, owned and operated by interests located outside the community, do not offer the caring and concerned response to customers provided at Bremen Bank.

From an original capital investment of \$25,000 in 1912 by area businessmen and residents, Bremen Bank's present assets have grown to over \$110,000,000. That growth serves as a testament to the Bank's financial durability, the community's industry, and regional economic health. Bremen Bank's growth over the past seventy-two years matched its service region's dramatic transformation from an early, turn of century status as a farming center to current standing as a dynamic, rapidly growing residential community with an equally active commercial base. During the area's historic growth, Bremen Bank earned a deserved reputation for community support through its administrative commitment to responsible financial investment in regional businesses and customer banking services.

Bremen Bank and Trust Company's present prosperity is sustained by customer ingenuity and industry. While bank management periodically claims a lion's share of the credit for achieved successes, at Bremen Bank we recognize our past growth depended on and our future growth will be built by our customers' enterprise in generating and using investment capital. Bremen Bank has worked diligently to establish and earn the community's trust by encouraging sound capital investment opportunities without sacrificing coordi-

nation of essential customer banking services. Our knowledgeable and commercially sophisticated customers ease this burden considerably. Bremen Bank's successful competition in today's turbulent banking environment is built on customer satisfaction with services and attainment of their desired investment outcomes.

While other banking and lending institutions compete for customer investment dollars to underwrite outside community business enterprises, locally owned and locally directed Bremen Bank and Trust Company emphasizes a policy of extending support to regional businesses and residents. Over the years, this Bremen Bank policy has ably struck that delicate balance between profitable, sound community investment of bank assets and provision of full service banking to its customers.

Tinley Park, Bremen Bank's home village, and neighboring communities of Orland Park, Oak Forest, Country Club Hills, and others provided the social and economic setting for the Bank's development. We, your banking professionals and neighbors at Bremen Bank, felt it appropriate, as the Bank approaches its fourth quarter of a century in regional service, to document our interdependent history. A brief record of the people, regional conditions, and events contributing to Bremen Bank's formation and growing financial strength would simultaneously benefit our need to inform and to boast. Our brochure was prepared in that spirit. It catalogues Bremen Bank's past accomplishments, emphasizes the Bank's vital community role, and offers a basis for predicting the Bank's future growth. In preparation, this chronicle unintentionally became an expression of the Bank's gratitude for its community's support, an article of faith in the residents' industry, and a testament to their vision of our collective future. A future in which Bremen Bank will invest and support.

*BREMEN BANK'S DIRECTORS, MANAGEMENT,
AND STAFF*

A SHORT REGIONAL HISTORY BEFORE BREMEN BANK

Touring the forest preserve surrounded residential areas of today's southwest Chicago suburbs, a visitor has to exercise considerable imagination to appreciate that ages ago, during its prehistory, this geographic region was entirely covered by water. Later epochs saw great fern tree forests and marshes slowly transformed into rich black earth and layers of coal fields for which Illinois is known. With every advance of four major glacial periods; huge, slow moving mountains of ice, acting like gigantic snowplows, leveled terrain leaving the flat and even landscape characteristic of Illinois prairie. This geological result produced an important present-day transportation advantage. A single stretch of railroad, an institution singularly important to the social and economic development of northeastern Illinois, could be laid in a straight line for well over 100 miles without so much as a hill to cut through.



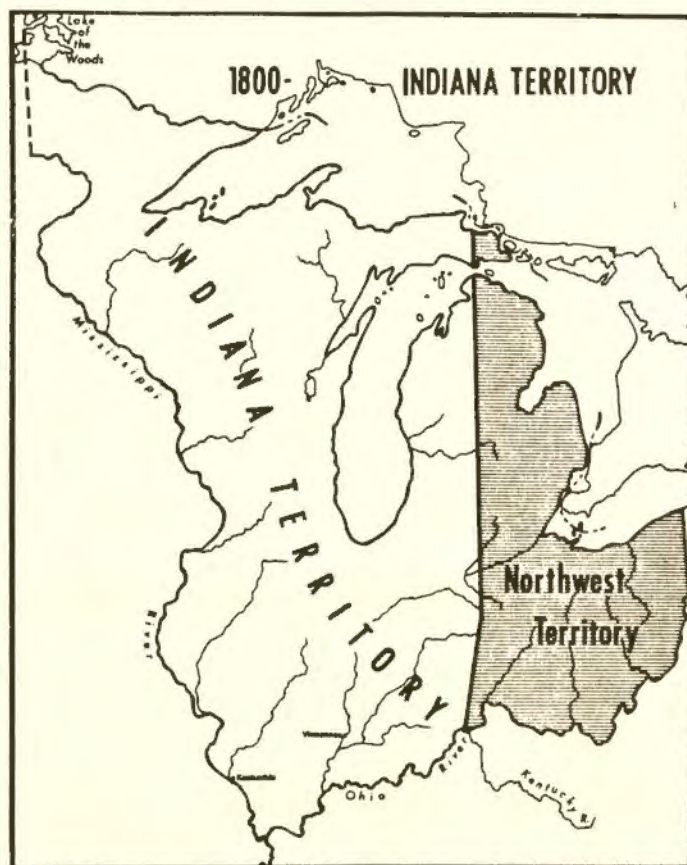
Later, in pre-revolutionary times, the land supported scores of hunting and gathering Indian tribes — part of the "Illini" family. Their hunting grounds were, with time, explored and occupied by Europeans. First the French controlled the region for approximately one hundred years (1673-1765), only to have it taken away by the English. They held the property for thirteen years, losing their claim on the land to the American revolutionaries. In 1787, as a newly formed nation consolidated its properties, this geographic area was designated part of the United States Northwest Territory.

Despite some confusion and debate whether the area would become part of Wisconsin or Indiana, the sixty northern miles of present-day Illinois were incorporated into its Statehood Ordinance. Currently over seventy percent of Illinois' entire population lives in this section. Its importance to the nation's industry and commerce is unmatched by any region in this country.

After admission to the Union in 1818, the northern part of Illinois, was still labeled "wilderness" by the Surveyor

General of the United States. The fertile Illinois prairie attracted many settlers intent on establishing a livelihood in farming. American pioneers leaving their eastern shore United States homes and Europeans emigrating for political and economic reasons were drawn by the availability of cheap, tillable farm lands.

Government surveyors marked off salable United States property into square mile parcels, or "sections." A section contained 640 acres and was divided into farms of 320, 160, or 80 acres each. Until 1862, before passage of the Homestead Act, the typical price of these lands was two dollars or less an acre. Any buyer could pay one-quarter of the land's price when the deal was closed, with the balance paid in annual installments. If crops failed, extensions were readily granted for payment.



John Fulton and Family: First Settlers in the Bremen Area

In 1844, the John Fulton family, dairy farmers from New York State, arrived by covered wagon and established a homestead at the northern end of the area currently known as Tinley Park. Reportedly, John Fulton settled there with his family when his wagon broke down. By 1839, after developing a productive farm, he purchased the 160 acre parcel of land on which his homestead rested from the United States government. Purchase was handled through a Chicago broker named Mr. William Blackstone. At the cost of \$1.25/acre, \$200.00 was paid for this initial property. John Fulton raised 14 children, including Bert Fulton, the town's first recorded birth.



Fulton Homestead

With time and growing prosperity, the Fulton family purchased other tracts of land throughout the area. In 1852, John Fulton acquired another parcel from the State of Illinois at what is now Central Avenue and 161st Street. This \$4.00/acre pro-

perty was from section 16 of the township and meant that the proceeds of the sale would go to the public schools. In time it became the James Fulton homestead with erection of his farmhouse on the property in the late 1880's.

84. Through the 1850's, villages in northeastern Illinois were formed and grew next to railroads. The federal government supported railroad construction by giving away millions of acres in territories to railroad companies. Railroad companies would either sell the land to settlers, or build large railroad networks if a region showed promise of becoming a commercial or industrial center.

One such railroad building project was originally planned to link Joliet, Illinois to La Porte, Indiana. To prevent this construction of a east-west railroad network which would bypass Chicago and threaten its emerging prosperity as a midwestern trade center; concerned Chicago business interests underwrote construction of railroad lines between Chicago and Joliet. In 1852 the Rock Island and Pacific Railroad was constructed through the Bremen and Orland Townships' area, and is considered by many local historians as a major economic factor responsible for shaping the region's future.

Another significant event contributing to regional development took place in Austria and Germany in 1848. The Confederation of German States, a liberal-nationalist union, fell apart under the attack of the Austrians and Prussians. Many of the German families emigrating, arrived in the Chicago region. A small, tightly-knit group of these immigrant farming families formed a village twenty-five miles southwest of downtown Chicago. They named their village New Bremen after Bremen, Germany, the European point of debarkation for a majority of the immigrant-settlers. New Bremen was a particularly attractive relocation area in need of construction workers on the Rock Island Railroad coupled with an almost unbound availability of farm land.

The immigrants' German ethnic heritage evolved into a rich collection of contemporary regional traditions and customs in this new world setting. Their legacy is still evident in numerous community landmarks (as evidenced by



Saenger Hall

Saenger Hall) and social practices. As major forebears of today's Tinley Park and its neighboring communities, these early pioneers created a durable economic base, stimulated regional growth, and instilled a strong sense of community pride which substantially enriched their childrens' lives.

In the early 1890's New Bremen reached a population of 200 and began to acquire a popular reputation as a convenient local trade center and retail supplier for farmers, with easy access to Chicago markets. Through a number of its leading citizens, including Christian Andres who later served as the Bremen Bank's first president, status as an incorporated village in the State of Illinois was petitioned and received on September 15, 1892. Village residents agreed, after some deliberation, to name New Bremen — Tinley Park, after a family that worked on the Rock Island Railroad for at least two generations.

With formal incorporation status, a new municipal government was organized. Henry Vogt, a well-respected village merchant who built the two story Bremen Cash Store, was elected as first mayor. Henry Andres won the Village Clerk's post. Position as Keeper of the Calaboose,

turnkey of the local lockup, was assumed by Henry Boldt. Six elected trustees paid at the annual rate of \$20 each, in a landmark first decision, authorized a Calaboose building project. Characteristic of contemporary problems with fiscal management of municipal building projects, the Calaboose's originally estimated \$170 cost ballooned to \$300 by completion — an 82% override. In addition, a disturbing \$15.25 outlay was incurred during the Calaboose's first year of operation to maintain 61 overnight guests, at 25¢ per night.

Municipal services came on the heels of incorporation. The mid-1890s saw concern for night-time street safety and illumination lead to appointment of a permanent Village Lamplighter to administer the gas lights on Oak Park Avenue. A growing maze of municipal ordinances forced the Board to establish a Village Attorney's office. A Village Engineer was assigned to deal with needed repair and of municipally owned properties and equipment. Community safety and law enforcement was assured with creation of an office of Village Marshall, who assumed duties formerly performed by the Keeper of the Calaboose.

Ushering out the nineteenth and entering the twentieth century, Tinley Park saw the beginnings of change in its economic and social structure. General industrial and technological development in the country's urban centers influenced rural villages. While these changes were less visible on Illinois farms along the Rock Island and Pacific than in major metropolitan centers, they were equally compelling and important to the residents.

In Tinley Park, this era witnessed construction of a water works with the village's first water tower. The tower stood in almost the same spot next to the Calaboose as the present Tinley Park Water Tower. The Chicago Telephone Company, predecessor to Illinois Bell Telephone Company, ran a line from Blue Island to New Lenox passing through Tinley Park in 1898. John Funk's Food Store became the first village location with a telephone — that electronic marvel of the twentieth century technology-drawing the village curious in droves. Though only a few business locations in Joliet and Chicago could be called initially, community-wide efforts to expand the ranks of subscribers produced a 1899 village telephone directory with seven families listed. Within a few years and more favorable community acceptance of



Funk's General Store

electronic communication, a switchboard was added. Twenty-four hour telephone service followed when Tinley Park Central moved its location from the Funk store's office to their own living quarters.

Tinley Park's population grew to 300 by 1900. During the new century's first decade, 20 villagers chartered and formed a volunteer Fire Department. A hand drawn 500 foot hose cart, acquired in 1902, was the envy of neighboring fire-fighting units. The same decade saw the Spiral Washing Machine Manufacturing Company build a plant on the southeast end of town. The plant was sold to a hopeful, but tragically unsuccessful airplane designer and builder named Dollard in 1917. His experimental triwinged flying machine made a brief and unimpressive maiden flight of a few seconds before crashing, ending all hope for Dollard's entry into the annals of American aviation history and Tinley Park's industrial development as an aircraft manufacturing center. That building was subsequently sold to the North American Mushroom Company which operated a lucrative enterprise until 1970, when a fire gutted Tinley Park's first factory.

Tinley Park's businessmen built a privately held power plant across from the present Village Hall in 1909. The plant provided electricity long before Public Service was introduced. Sadly, the plant's success eliminated the Village

DRAWN
THIS
TIME

Lamplighter's job after only fifteen years of service. Later, Tinley Park Light and Power was profitably sold to Public Service as their utility lines started supplying power to Bremen Township.

As the 20th century's first decade ended, Tinley Park's population grew to 309. Development and growth of a substantial village economy, an expanding community commercial base, resident demand for financial services, and flow of investment capital out of the village exerted pressure to form a community bank.

BREMEN BANK & TRUST ARRIVES

On February 13, 1912, with \$25,000 of capital stock, a determined group of Tinley Park's leading citizens filed an application with the State of Illinois organizing and

(FORM NO. 2 BANKING)

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Auditor's Office

Springfield, February 13-1912

Be it remembered that the following Certificate of Incorporation was filed for record in the Auditor's Office of the State of Illinois on the 13th day of February, 1912:

Whereas, The persons hereinafter named have this day filed in the office of the Auditor of Public Accounts duly signed and acknowledged according to law an application for permission to organize a Bank or Banking Association, under the provisions of an act of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois, entitled, "An Act Concerning Corporations with Banking Powers" approved June 16 1887, in force December 6 1888, as amended, by act approved June 3 1889, in force November 29 1890, and by act approved June 4 1891, in force November 28 1891, and by act approved June 1 1901, in force November 24 1901;

Now, Therefore, I, J. S. McCULLOUGH, Auditor of Public Accounts of the State of Illinois, by virtue of the power vested in and the duties imposed upon me by the act aforesaid, do hereby authorize, empower and grant permission to

GEORGE BOLST, JOHN C. ANDERSON
ALL HENRY F. BRUNENBERG

the persons whose names are signed to the before mentioned application to organize a Bank or Banking Association to be known as

BREMEN STATE BANK

to be located at TINLEY PARK, County of COOK, and

State of Illinois with a capital stock of TWENTY FIVE thousand dollars

divided into TWO HUNDRED FIFTY shares of one hundred dollars each.

The duration of said association to be TWENTY FIVE years.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my name and affix the seal of my office, the day and year first above written.

J. S. McCullough
AUDITOR PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Original Charter

establishing Bremen State Bank. Increasing community population growth, an expanding regional farm economy with a corresponding demand for commercial services, and twenty years of history as an incorporated village stimulated area businessmen to organize Bremen and Orland Township's first major financial institution.

Bremen Bank's charter members consisted of fifteen area community leaders with personal investments in maintaining the region's economic vitality. All were principal land owners, merchants, and residents of the Bremen and Orland township areas. Their family names were synonymous with successful entrepreneurship and commercial development in the southwest suburbs for well over a century. Of course, the original founders had no way of predicting their Bank's initial assets would grow from a \$25,000 capital investment into current holdings of well over \$110,000,000.

During its first operational year the Bank employed an elected president, a head cashier, and an assistant cashier. Bank business was conducted at 17300 Oak Park Avenue, Bremen State Bank's original operational address until 1966. In 1912, Bremen State Bank's then modern edifice was both source and symbol of the community's pride in its accomplishments and growing financial strength. Its birth served as an article of community faith in the region's economic future. To many area residents it represented a visible, singular expression of the community's arrival into the twentieth century. Tinley Park and its surrounding municipal neighbors had become significantly more than a minor supply center for area farmers, or whistletops for Rock Island Railroad traffic between Joliet and Chicago. Strong and robust, with assets doubling each of its two beginning years, Bremen Bank's early growth provided an unmistakable assurance of long-term durability and prosperity.

Continuing Bank growth during the first decade produced a ten-fold rise in assets by 1922. These early years were also marked by a steady and prominent growth in the area's population. That growth continued at a steady and impressive rate until 1929 when the United States began its experience with the Great Depression, a decade-long crisis that produced economic and social hardships worldwide, leaving few people untouched.

Though large metropolitan centers and their banking institutions felt the Depression's impact almost immediately,

farms and rural communities were not affected until a few years later. Chicago and other large industrialized cities were particularly vulnerable with urban dwellers suffering more than rural families. General national unemployment reduced the market for farm products. In 1931, the Illinois farmer experienced a marked slowing. Then, a reversal in growth of farm income until bottom was reached during the mid-1930s.



The Old Bank

Christian Andres First President of Bremen Bank (1834-1914)

Christian Andres was an active leader in numerous Bremen area social, political, and economic affairs. A staunch, work-oriented, fiscally aware businessman, he served as treasurer of Bremen township for many years. He held virtually every available position of trust in the community during his lifetime. These included village supervisor, assessor, clerk, justice of the peace, notary public, village president, and first postmaster of Tinley Park — not to mention his work as the railroad clerk at the Oak Park Avenue Rock Island station. In 1912 with a collection of 15 other prominent village businessmen he founded Bremen State Bank, serving as its first president until his death on March 4, 1914.



Christian Andres was born on November 11, 1834 to a farm family in Koenigswald near Cassel, Germany. He lived there with his family through the age of 18. In 1852, like many of his countrymen who left Germany following the dissolution of the Confederation of German States, he emigrated to the United States. Arriving in Chicago in 1853, he found work through a German emigrant society at a farm in Bremen township known as Cooper's Groove, presently part of Country Club Hills. Finding productive work through emigrant societies was a common experience for many German, Irish, English, and other European immigrants arriving in Chicago during the mid 19th century.

After five months on Cooper's farm, Christian moved to the Yankee settlement in Will County and worked the farms of a man named Mr. Messenger. In the fall of 1857, he returned to the Bremen area with

his accumulated wealth and bought a 120 acre farm in Orland township. One year later, at age 23, he married Elizabeth Steffens and they raised 9 children. In 1865 he entered the mercantile business in New Bremen, Tinley Park's name before incorporation. His business grew and prospered through 1882, when Christian Andres sold it to John Funk to accept a position of station agent at the Rock Island depot, a job he held until 1894. In 1876, Andres constructed a grain elevator in Tinley Park and managed a lucrative grain and coal business for several years until he sold it in 1900. After his first wife died in June, 1887, Christian remarried Mrs. Christina Fulton, a widow, one year later in June, 1888. Their union produced yet another child.



Grain Elevator

Bremen Bank's response to the regions experience of economic crisis serves as an enduring historical testament to the bank's community-spiritedness and economic durability. Reduced farm earnings coupled with a need to acquire living necessities forced Bremen and Orland area families to draw on their savings. Despite an enormous drain on bank reserves, Bremen State Bank stayed open and paid full

value on all investments, a noteworthy achievement for any bank during the Depression. Many banks were forced to close their doors for months at a time, paid in scrip, or only at partial value. Bremen Bank was only closed on those business days ordained as bank holidays by federal mandate. Community business leaders, many with their capital invested in Bremen State Bank stock, not only personally extended direct support to their customers and neighbors, but encouraged the Bank to grant extensions on loans to financially strapped village residents.

By sharing in the area customer's economic fate, community-owned and community-based Bremen Bank was committed to respond to its customers' financial problems. An unchanging fundamental strength and characteristic of Bremen Bank's commercial operations has been the Bank's responsiveness to and personal concern in the regional customer's financial needs. That service commitment, evident today, has its historical precedent in Bremen Bank's conduct of business during the Depression.

In 1934, Bremen Bank assets started to climb back to pre-Depression levels as the national economy slowly recovered. Within three years, the Bank surpassed its previously recorded high. By 1940, with United States entry into World War II, Tinley Park's population rose to over 1100 residents. Just as in the Civil War and World War I, Tinley Park responded to the wartime challenge with over 250 male and female village residents serving in the armed forces. Those who stayed home contributed to the defense effort by organizing clothing and food drives for troops at the front. Many grew victory gardens. Local pundits recall travelers commenting on the substantial acreage of these "gardens" by calling them "victory farms."

During war years, Bank assets rose to \$600,000, assisted in part by regional crop production. Increasing service volume in this thriving economy required adding a fourth Bank employee as an assistant cashier. It was the first new position created and filled since the Bank's incorporation in 1912.

A building boom, evident in the southwest suburbs for a short period before the war, was restimulated with the postwar suburban migration of Chicago veterans and their families. Shopping centers and new businesses followed in the wake of this residential suburban expansion. Housing

developments mushroomed at sites that were previously corn fields, chicken farms, and wooded areas. This post-war boom anticipated an accelerated and practically uncontained population growth during the 50s.

Tinley Park with its neighboring municipalities of Orland Park, Oak Forest, and Country Club Hills more than doubled in population from their pre-war census by 1950. The same year saw Chicago reach a peak United States Bureau of Census population count of over 3.6 million, a figure not seen since. For the first time since the United States Bureau of Census started keeping score, population increases in the suburban balance of Cook County, were numerically equivalent to those of Chicago, each expanded by approximately one-quarter of a million residents.

Postwar prosperity and productivity, of newly formed families rebuilding lives interrupted by war, created demand for new housing. A south suburban land development and building boom, unrivalled in the region's current history, was fueled by that demand. Attitudes toward commuting from a suburban home to an urban job changed. War veterans transported over Europe and throughout the Pacific were not concerned about commuting distances to work. Experiencing the joys of urban employment and suburban-rural living, a city-country life style, was made possible by construction of an extensive state highway transportation system and the emergence of the two-car family. Realization of the American Dream, delayed by an economic depression and world war, arrived to the farming villages outside of Chicago and was expressed as suburban sprawl.

That realization influenced Tinley Park and its municipal neighbors more than other suburban communities. Life in Bremen and Orland townships offered multiple advantages, attractive to home buyers. Most were only a half-hour commuter train or automobile expressway ride from Chicago's Loop. The southwest suburban communities were located equal distances from Chicago, Joliet, the industrial Lake Michigan south shore and northwest Indiana's steel production centers and industrial parks. There was a general availability of choice sites for housing construction and community development. Flat farm lands were easily subdivided and developed — construction site

characteristics relished by builders. Young families with similar social, educational and recreational needs were attracted to the area, establishing communities which supported their needs.

Area village population grew rapidly during the 1950s. Bremen State Bank was pressured by this population growth to expand and introduce new services. As more and more young families moved into the area and established households, they created unparalleled financial service demands. Community business and commercial enterprises which followed the increasing population also required more elaborated banking support.

In response, Bremen State Bank expanded its original Oak Park Avenue facility to accomodate this new and growing public during 1950. Building expansion included doubling the amount of floor space, adding 4 cashiers windows to supplement the two used since 1912, and introducing a night depository for the security of community businesses operating after banking hours. A state-of-the-art Mosler safe was installed. It's size, modern design, and virtual impregnability was a source of advertised pride for the bank's directors and staff. Following 38 years of service, the original vault was retired to the less demanding duty of protecting safe deposit boxes. Despite this expansion, three years later, in 1953, even more floor space was needed and added to the old Bank building in a desperate, though futile, attempt to keep pace with community population growth and continued rise in demand for bank services.

In 1960, with Bremen Bank assets topping 6 million, the Bank's administration was forced, albeit painfully, to admit their original facility no longer provided enough space to satisfy increased customer demand for banking services. Planning began for construction of a new Bremen Bank facility. Property was acquired at 17500 Oak Park Avenue, three blocks south of the original Bremen State Bank building. The new site provided substantially more space for constructing a large, modern, and easily accessible facility with an ample parking area. Architectural plans, given past Bremen Bank experience with the community's progressive and rapid growth, wisely incorporated provisions for future structural expansion. This op-



Former President, Harry Mager (1947-49) at vault door

tion was later exercised by adding a second floor with further increases in community demand for financial services in 1978.

Ground was broken in the spring of 1965 for the new Bank facility. One year later, on October 26, 1966, a complete transfer of all bank operations with 12 million in assets and 23 employees was completed, and the present Bank facility was opened to the public. Initially bank operations were confined to building's main floor. The open, airy and inviting interior design created a clear architectural impression of Bremen Bank's full commitment to personal customer service and accessibility to Bank officers and staff.

The old Bremen State Bank building was acquired by Tinley Park's School District 146 as an administrative school services center, a useful community function served to this day. Following its 54 years of continuing service, sale of the original Bremen Bank site was commemorated with an administrative award by the Bank's directors of a \$15,000 gift toward School District 146's purchase. This reduced the School District's purchase price. That gift to the community acknowledged the many deep sentiments and memories associated with the original site of Bremen State Bank. Even today, it remains an active symbol of Bank and regional history.

This instance of Bank largesse was not unique to its operations. In 1958, Bremen Bank extended a loan erecting the first permanent library building at 6871 W. 171st Street, without a collateral requirement. The Bank recognized and understood the library's invaluable contribution to the community's educational needs and cultural life. In 1978, as



Old Zion Lutheran Church

holder of the mortgage, Bremen Bank and Trust Co. played a major role in the acquisition of the "Old Zion Church" as the first Village Landmark by the Bremen Historical Society.

Over the years the Bank has quietly made direct contributions assisting community families experiencing unex-

pected accidents, illnesses, and natural disasters. In 1956 and 1963 when tornadoes produced extensive damage to village homes and property, Bremen Bank's directors responded by providing immediate financial assistance to help resident families rebuild. Periodically, when circumstances demanded, the Bank helped create community funds to assist residents with emergency financial needs.

During 1968, in response to customer demand, the Bank obtained authorization from the State of Illinois and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to add a trust department. That year the annual statement of condition for Bremen Bank and Trust Company reported assets in excess of 17 million dollars, doubling those reported in 1962. Correspondingly, Bank staff increased to 31 employees, doubling the number employed in 1961. As the 60s ended, assets reached 25 million dollars and customer banking services were provided by a staff of 41.

With a decline in Chicago's population following the mid-century mark, Tinley Park and its neighbor villages grew at rates exceeding those for the general Chicago suburban area. The overall balance of Cook suburban community increased by 77% from 1950 to 1960. During the same period, Tinley Park enjoyed a 175% increase in resident count. During the next decade, 1960 to 1970, while the average increase in population for Cook County's suburbs was 35%, Tinley Park's population increased by practically 100%. From 1970 to 1980, as Chicago's population experienced another decline, and balance of Cook County grew at a 6% rate, Tinley Park's 1980 census increased 108% over the 1970 count.

In 1973, as beneficiary of this rapid population growth in Tinley Park and the surrounding communities, Bremen Bank expanded both its main physical location and added services. A major improvement involved adding a motorbank. This facility was located across the street and south of the Bank's 17500 Oak Park Avenue main address. Today the motorbank's aisles and walk-up windows handle practically the same amount of customer traffic and commercial volume as the main Bank building. A second floor was added to the main bank structure in 1978. Half of the second floor space is used by the Bank's loan and trust departments. The remainder is leased as office space to public and private concerns.

With expansion, Bremen Bank became the second largest private employer in Tinley Park. During 1984, the Bank hired its one hundredth employee.

In 1985, Bremen Bank and Trust will open a full-service extension at 167th and 80th Avenue. This Bremen Bank branch was planned for the convenience of bank customers living in western Tinley Park and eastern Orland Park. When completed, it will maintain the high standards and provide community financial services currently available at the parent office.

THE BREMEN BANK COMMITMENT

We, your neighbors and banking professionals at Bremen Bank, consider ourselves fortunate for sharing in our community's progress. From simple beginnings as a farming village's mainstay, Bremen Bank was transformed into a multi-service institution by successfully predicting and conscientiously responding to growing customer financial demands. Customer satisfaction brought prosperity and encouraged development of services unmatched by other area financial institutions. A long cultivated tradition of personal, durable, and reliable service will continue to mark Bremen Bank's contributions to our community's future.

That trademarked Bremen Bank personal touch in customer relations is consistent with the best of America's banking practices. Built on a longstanding partnership nurtured and maintained between Bremen Bank's staff and their customers, a friendly professional climate endures today at all levels of Bank operations. Community owned and independent, Bremen Bank supplies comprehensive timely banking services to today's financially sophisticated customers.

At the heart of Bremen Bank's success is an active and hard-working staff. Among the most skillful and informed regionally available banking talent, they continually upgrade and refine their professional competencies with training in state of the art banking operations and technology. At the same time, they do not lose personal contact with their customer. Few area banks can boast of personnel who compare in their immediacy, warmth, and directness of

response to customer needs. Bremen Bank's executive officers are as accessible as any teller or clerk. Bank officers and staff live in the community, attend the same churches as their customers educate their children in the same schools, engage in similar recreational and leisure-time pursuits, and participate in the same fraternal and social organizations. By sharing in all aspects of community life, Bremen Bank's employees personally understand their customers' daily concerns and financial needs.

We feel justifiably proud of our close to three quarter-century legacy of committed regional banking service. Our status as the most durable community organized, community held, and community based bank remains unchallenged. That established tradition of commitment will continue and direct Bremen Bank's future prosperity and growth into the twenty-first century.

Lithographic reproductions by Steven Winert compliments of Bremen Historical Society of Tinley Park.



BREMEN BANK

BREMEN BANK AND TRUST COMPANY / MEMBER FDIC

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