



Tinley Park Public Library
PAMPHLET
Tinley Park--History

REFERENCE

GUIDE
TO
THE HISTORIC DISTRICT OF TINLEY PARK
AND OTHER SITES
OF HISTORICAL INTEREST



PREPARED BY
BREMEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF TINLEY PARK

In 1850 a new Illinois Constitution established the township system of local government and accordingly the area known as York Precinct was divided into townships. The southeastern part of York Precinct contained a large number of Germanic settlers became Bremen Township after New Bremen, the largest village within the township. The southwestern part of York Precinct became Orland Township.

The arrival of the Rock Island and Pacific Railroad in 1852 ensured the economic growth of the village. By 1861 New Bremen could boast as having several hotels, three carpenters, a blacksmith, a cobbler, a wagonmaker, three merchants and two saloonkeepers. The first public school was constructed in 1863. Following an economic recession caused by the Civil War, New Bremen renewed its growth.

John Thornworth opened a general store facing Bachelors Grove Road. To meet the need of Chicago for flour, George Bartels built a large wind-driven mill in 1872. Christian Andres began a grain elevator near the Rock Island tracks. Henry Vogt, Sr. acquired the Saenger Hall Saloon that had been built by his brother Karl, and later added a dance hall. It was in this building that Henry Vogt, Sr. also opened a small general store. In 1888 he constructed a new building for the expanding store. By 1890 New Bremen had a population of 200. In 1900, with a population of 300, it constituted nearly 16% of the population in all of Bremen Township.

Recently discovered documents dating from 1891 indicate that citizenry had begun to adopt a new name for their town - TINLEY PARK. According to one account, Samuel Tinley, who had served as stationmaster from 1854 to 1880, started a garden near the depot. This spot was referred to as "Tinley's Park."

In 1892 three leading citizens, Christian Andres, Dr. Charles Bishop, and Henry Vogt, Sr. began a petition drive for incorporation. At a meeting at the Rock Island depot on June 27, 1892, the citizens voted 34 to 24 for incorporation as the Village of Tinley Park. The results of the election were filed and recorded with the County Court of Cook County on June 28, 1892 officially recognizing the organized Village of Tinley Park. The first election for the Board of Trustees was held on July 19th of that year and Henry Vogt, Sr. was chosen as the first mayor. After incorporation, Tinley Park continued to grow and thrive as a village, known for its volunteer spirit and visionary governmental leaders. The village has grown from a mere 200 in 1892 to approximately 35,500 in 1989.

HENRY VOGT, SR. RESIDENCE

17420 67th Court

(formerly Die Linden Street)

South of the Bremen Cash Store, on the northwest corner of 67th Court and 174th Place (formerly Die Linden Strasse and Kirchen (Church) Strasse), is located the Victorian home Henry Vogt, Sr. built for his family in 1882. It was a large well appointed two story frame structure. Originally, several of the rooms had ornate borders and designs stenciled on the ceilings and walls. A large decorative stained glass window hung over the front entrance marked "H. Vogt - 1882", proclaiming to all who visited who the owner was and when the home was built. This window has been faithfully reproduced from the original which remains in the possession of the Vogt family. The home was described as the finest in the village in Goodspeed & Healy's History of Cook County, volume II (1909).

The unique brick tower on the west end of the house was added to the original home in about 1888 and was constructed as part of the kitchen and as a water tower. The tower is constructed of Homewood brick, manufactured in nearby Homewood, Illinois. A large wooden vat once occupied the upper level of the tower supported by large 12 inch square timbers that can still be seen. Water was pumped from a ground well into the barrel by a windmill, and could also collect water from the roof gutters. Gravity provided natural water pressure to the kitchen below. Through this design, Henry Vogt's house was the first home in Tinley Park with indoor running water. (Indoor plumbing was not added until later in the small two story "birdhouse" addition on the west end of the house, south of the brick tower). Additionally, water was collected from the roof gutters into two cisterns located under the porch on the northwest corner of the house and on the southwest side of the house. These provided water for washing and other needs in the basement. There was a severe drought in 1887, and it is believed that Henry Vogt wished to insure that he would always have an adequate supply of water at hand. The community's wells and water system would not be built until 1899.

The basement floor is made of large flat slabs of limestone supported on short brick walls, or footings. Family members indicate that there was a particular piece of limestone that could be removed, under which the family could hide valuables and money in the early days before banks.

There once stood a two story block structure northwest of the house that was known by the family as the "stone barn" and was constructed of cement blocks made to simulate rough hewn stone. These blocks were manufactured by the Valentine H. Scheer Block Company at the site now occupied by Bechstein Construction (17368 68th Court). The building once housed the horses and wagons, and later the automobiles of the family. There also was an area where chickens were kept on the first floor and pigeons on the upper floor. Feed was kept on the upper floor and dispensed through chutes to the animals below. At one time, the airplane manufactured by the Goodall Aero Company (the factory was located at the southwest

corner of Oak Forest and Ridgeland Avenues) was stored in the upper floor. This building was demolished in 1993.

Flanking the front of the house (east side) on the north and south were two fountains created from stones collected by Henry Vogt in his travels around the world. One fountain (on the south lawn where a new gazebo has been constructed) was shaped like a christmas tree with the water cascading down from the top into a small reflecting pool. These were believed to have been constructed in the 1920s. Fountains were a very popular lawn decoration in Tinley Park at the time, and many people tried to outdo each other with their creations. Stones from these fountains have been used in two decorative walls on the northeast and southwest corners of the property.

There were two ice houses near this home. A small ice house was located in the northwest corner of the yard in back of the house. There was also another ice house run by Wesley Lanham on the corner of 174th Place and 67th Court as well as a larger ice house behind the Andres Block (now Bettenhausen Hardware). The ice was collected from the creeks and streams in the winter and stored. Ice was made available to the public and a block of ice cost 10 cents.

Four generations of the Henry Vogt family lived in this home. Henry Vogt & Mathilda (Wille) Vogt (Sr.); Henry C. & Amelia (Saul) Vogt; Marvin & Nellie Vogt and three of their children (Cynthia, William, and David) were born while living at the house. Both the Bremen Cash Store and residence properties remained in the Vogt family for over 100 years (1880 - 1994).

The house was acquired by the Tinley Park Park District in 1994 and its exterior has been restored to its more historic appearances. It was briefly used for a fine dining establishment known as Santangelo's. It is now known as the Vogt Visual Arts Center and is an art gallery and studio for aspiring local artists.

Henry Vogt, Sr., the original owner of the Bremen Cash Store/Vogt's Department Store, was one of the village's most prominent and influential citizens during his lifetime. Coincidentally, he was born in 1853, the same year the Village of Bremen was platted on the path of the Rock Island Railroad. No one at the time could have known the significant role he would take in shaping the village's growth and development. In whatever he did, Henry Vogt always supported and promoted the community, because he knew what was good for the community would also be good for his business. The philosophy of community service was also embraced by his descendants who continued to support endeavors for the betterment of the community.

Henry Vogt Sr. served as Bremen Township Clerk from 1881 to 1884 and as a Justice of the Peace.

He was Postmaster for the New Bremen/Tinley Park Post Office from 1883 to 1885; 1889 to 1894; and 1906 to 1913. While he was Postmaster, he requested the Post Office name be changed from New Bremen to Tinley Park in October 1890 presumably in honor of the village's first railroad station agent (and Henry Vogt's former neighbor) Samuel Tinley, Sr.

Mr. Vogt was one of three prominent citizens who were instrumental in petitioning for the organization and incorporation of the Village of Tinley Park local government in 1892.

Henry Vogt, Sr. was elected and served as the first Village President (Mayor) in 1892 (and served again in 1901-1902). He also served as Village Treasurer and as a Village Trustee in the subsequent years.

After retiring from the retail business in 1912, he became a real estate developer who continued to encourage the growth and development of the community.

Henry Vogt, Sr. was a founding member and among the organizers of the Zion Lutheran Church of Tinley Park.

DETWEILER'S BLACKSMITH SHOP 17355 67th Court

Detweiler's Blacksmith Shop was located on the east side of the marketplace. Jacob Detweiler, who had immigrated from Switzerland, became very popular with the local children, who came to watch him at work at the forge and at shoeing horses. Today a small restaurant occupies the building.

SITE OF SAENGER HALL 17407 & 17423 67th Court

In 1857, upon moving into New Bremen from the family farm near Cicero and 167th Street, Karl Vogt built on this site a small saloon. Saenger Hall got its name from the German singing societies which were popular in the area at the time. The "Singers Hall" was located upstairs over the tavern. This room was also used as a dance hall. In 1872 it was sold to Karl's brother, Henry, who added a larger dance hall to it in 1903. The former dance hall was converted to living spaces for the Vogt family.

Saenger Hall served as a center for community activities, and for political rallies from the time of Abraham Lincoln to that of Dwight Eisenhower. It passed through the hands of various proprietors & owners until it was destroyed by fire in 1962. Today the site is occupied by the American Legion Hall (who had purchased the site in 1961) and a small office building. Directly east of Saenger Hall was a grove of Linden trees that provided an area for picnics and barbecues and was the site of many social gatherings. Many of these events were hosted by the Vogt family. A livery stable was also located nearby. The site of the "Linden Garden" is now occupied by the Illinois Bell switching office.

THE VOGT DEPARTMENT STORE 6775 174th Street

Henry Vogt, Sr. after acquiring Saenger Hall from his brother, Karl, began a general store in the building. By 1886 he was able to build the Bremen Cash Store for \$14,000. This multi-purpose store included a meat market, a pharmacy, and, for a time, the post office. A safe was provided to secure the valuables of local residents. A passenger elevator, operated by hand pulleys, was added. Henry C. Vogt, Jr. continued the operation of the store after his father's retirement in approximately 1912. Henry, Jr. turned the business into a modern department store that was the largest mercantile establishment in Tinley Park for many years. In 1967, fire ended its service as a department store. It is currently occupied by the Penny Saver advertising newspaper offices.

HENRY VOGT, SR. RESIDENCE 17420 67th Court

South of the Bremen Cash Store, is located the Victorian home Henry Vogt, Sr. built for his family. The Vogt's referred to the house as "the mansion." It was subsequently remodeled and today serves as apartments.

The block structure on the northwest corner was known by the family as the "stone garage" and is constructed of cement blocks made to simulate rough hewn stone. These blocks were manufactured by the Scheer Block Company at the site now occupied by Bechstein Construction (17368 68th Court).

ANDRES BLOCK
17344-17348 Oak Park Avenue

On the north end of this site, a general store had been opened by the early 1860's. One of the owners was John Thornworth, who sold it in 1865 to Christian Andres. His son, Henry C. Andres followed his father in the business. Tinley Park's first telephone was installed here in 1898. In 1901, John C. Funk took over operation of the store. The switchboard was operated by John Funk and his family (and later Viola Wilke). For many years the operator switchboard was located in Mr. Funk's living quarters above the store to provide 24 hour service. The operator switchboard was located in this structure until 1936. The Funk's grocery store was operated by the family until 1954 when it was sold to Max Rauscher. The grocery store was continued by John Wojochoski until the early 1960's.

In 1906 Christian Andres constructed the two storey brick building to the south of the then John C. Funk store calling it the "Andres Block". The general store operated by John Funk expanded into the north end of this building for dry goods. In 1934, Henry J. Bettenhausen established his hardware business in the north end of this building.

The south end of the structure housed Boeyer Brothers Market in 1907. It also housed Guido Dini's ice cream parlor prior to opening the tavern. Tinley Park's first drug store, founded by a Mr. Gonea was also located here. The drug store was later acquired by Alan Cavett and is now occupied by General Finance Company.

The single storey structure between the two buildings served as a public bath, barber shop, and post office. Henry J. Bettenhausen later acquiring the block for his expanding business.

HOLLSTEIN'S SALOON/PINTO LOUNGE
17350 Oak Park Avenue

One of Tinley Park's oldest saloons was founded by William Hollstein. For a short time it was an Atlantic and Pacific Grocery Store, and a Royal Blue Store. A barber shop run by Walter Mancke and later and a series of millinery shops run by Helen Chapman, Mrs. Brown Campbell, and Jen Schultz occupied the one storey portion of the building. Today it is known as the Pinto Lounge and according to their own admission is "where country music got its start in Tinley Park".

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING (FORMER VILLAGE GOVERNMENT COMPLEX)
6823 173rd Place & 17355 68th Court

The first Village Hall was a former one room school house constructed in 1863. It originally stood at approximately 6730 West 174th Place (then called Kirchen Strasse, or Church Street) and was moved to the 173rd Place site after the village began constructing its water works in 1899.

The frame structure was moved once more in 1954 to make way for a new larger brick structure (completed in 1955) to serve the expanding community. This facility was subsequently enlarged in 1972 with an addition to the west and south of the 1955 structure (facing 68th Court).

her husband Forrest Rice also resided here. The present owners Helen (Rice) and Robert Funk, descendants of the Andres and Funk families, have preserved its original appearance.

This home was the recipient of the Society's Historical Preservation Award in 1986.

THE TINLEY PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6875 173rd Place

Tinley Park was served by two Methodist Churches for many years. The younger congregation had its beginnings in 1897, forming the Tinley Park Union Church. This congregation was served for many years by traveling and student ministers. Their initial Sunday school and church meetings were held in the Village Hall from 1897 to 1899. Its first permanent church was built in 1900 on a lot donated by Christian Andres, Sr.

The older congregation dates to 1859 and was originally known as the New Bremen Religious Society. They erected a new frame church in 1886, in the Prairie Gothic style, at the corner of 171st Street and 84th Avenue replacing a smaller sanctuary (later known as the Orland Township Methodist Church). Its services were held in German until 1938 when lightning struck and the church burned to the ground.

This congregation merged with the "town" church and construction soon began on the present edifice (completed in 1940). The town church originally sat in the middle of what is now 173rd Place. When construction began, the frame church was moved and became the chancel of the new structure. One of the church bells was donated by Edward Tinley. Its stained glass windows were imported from Germany. The church's parsonage at 17342 68th Court was constructed in 1905.

VALENTINE SCHEER HOME

17368 68th Court

This was the home of Valentine Scheer, founder of Scheer Block Company. It is now occupied by offices.

Scheer Block Company was located directly south of this home on the site now occupied by Bechstein Construction (17368 68th Court). Scheer Block manufactured concrete blocks for use in construction. Their most famous product was a block that looked like rough hewn stone. This product was used extensively for foundations and other structures in early Tinley Park homes. (See also the "stone barn" at the Henry Vogt, Sr. home.) This product was later available from a manufacturer in Joliet. A metal quonset hut was located on the site of the block factory which was later occupied by Wescoil (before moving to the old Service Bakery Building at 16706 Oak Park Avenue), and then Garden Distributors (selling garden products). The quonset building later burned and Henry J. Bechstein, Jr. acquired the site for his construction company.

COLUMBIA HOTEL/FUNK'S TAVERN

17332 Oak Park Avenue

In the late 19th century, what today is Ed & Joe's Pizza restaurant, this structure was built as the Columbia Hotel by Peter Nielsen. It was probably named in recognition of the 1892 anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus. The saloon was

It was moved at a cost of \$65 to 6823 West 173rd Place in December 1899 to a parcel of property purchased for the Village's Water Works. It was sold to Henry J. Bettenhausen in 1954 with the construction of a new village hall and moved to its present location.

BREMEN STATE BANK BUILDING

17318 Oak Park Avenue

The bank was chartered in 1912, with Christian Andres as the first president. It opened with \$25,000 in capital. Within two years it had assets of over \$100,000. It was one of the few banks that remained open during the Depression of 1929. In 1950 the building was enlarged and remodeled. With the construction of a new bank facility in 1966 (17500 Oak Park Avenue), the building was sold to School District 146 for its administrative offices. Today the bank is known as the Heritage Bremen Bank.

PACIFIC HOTEL/TEEHAN'S TAVERN

17329 Oak Park Avenue

Shortly after the arrival of the Rock Island and Pacific Railroad in 1852, a Mr. Riebling built this building as the Pacific Hotel, reflecting the hope that the rail line would extend to the Pacific Ocean. By 1892 Henry Boldt, a prosperous grain farmer, had become its proprietor and was renamed it the Tinley Park Hotel. Henry Boldt would be its proprietor for many years. Over the years it was owned or run by Dick Bruening, and Pete Parenti. Mr. Parenti's daughter Marie married Harold Teehan and the saloon is still run by the Teehan family. It contains one of the oldest saloons in Tinley Park.

NORTH STREET

East of Teehan's and along the north side of North Street was one of the oldest business and shopping districts of New Bremen/Tinley Park. There were several large business structures that housed a number important businesses of the community over the years including:

Boldt's Feed Store, Ed Henke's Feed Store, John Cole's Tinley Park Auto Parts (in later years this location had a gas pump in front).

Herman Stoeckman's Dance Hall, later a clothing store, Elmer Siemsen's Implements, Goodson Implements, Goesel's Implements, and Joe Greco's Barber Shop.

Bruening's Feed & Harness Shop and Uzemack's Blacksmith Shop (burned in the 1940's).

Goesel's Saloon, Broockman's Tavern, H & S Feed Store (run by Mel Hopman & Adolph Schultz - later Schultz Feed Store), a Royal Blue Store (Hopman & Schultz), and Hartwig's Laundromat.

Further east are several well preserved homes that belonged to prominent citizens in the village's early years that belonged to Philip Mager (6724 North Street - site of Tinley Park

duster and electric light bulb. This kept the chicks as warm as if they were under the mother hen. His slogan was: "As safe as a Hen."

HICK & MESSENBRINK BUILDING

17302 Oak Park Avenue

Hick and Messenbrink Meat Market, served the community for many years as one of the best meat markets in Tinley Park. From it live chickens could be selected and carried home in a gunny sack. The market was noted for the excellent quality of its ground meat.

FUNK'S CORNER

17265 - 17269 Oak Park Avenue

This commercial complex was built by William Funk. For many years it contained a gas station, soda fountain, and a bakery. In the 1940's it was also known as the Hollstein Building. It was recently remodeled and now contains the Italian Villa restaurant and an office center.

Edward Funk ran the gas station for many years. The gas station was later known as Standard Service Station run by Carl M. Bockstahler. After a fire, Martin Keenan reopened a gas station. Tinley Park Auto Parts run by John Cole occupied the service station portion of the building after moving from a North Street store.

Edward and his sisters, Alma and Marian Funk also ran Funk's Lunch Room and ice cream parlor on the corner. Many recall the local ice cream shops following a promotion devised by the manufacturers of the "Safe-T-Cone" that awarded a free ice cream cone if you found a slip of paper marked "FREE" in the bottom of the cone. Estel Fremdner operated the soda fountain after Ed Funk. It is probably best remembered in recent years as Rudy's Ice Cream Parlor. On the way to and from school local children stopped to buy candy. This corner would later contain a candy store run by Romaneneghi's, Ortegara's Piano, and an accounting office before becoming a restaurant once again with the Italian Villa.

A series of bakeries occupied the east portion of the building. Among them were: William Goeb, William Timmerman, Charles Hollwedel (1938). Service Bakery which was run by Mr. Herkert (1939) and by Fred Fremdner (beginning in 1940) was located here until moving to larger facilities at 16706 Oak Park Avenue. This portion was later occupied by a company that installed rubber linings in metal tanks and George Turner's Turnco, a machine shop.

FUNK LIVERY STABLE

17246 67th Court

East & north of the "Funk's Corner", is A.C. Brandau Construction Company, which occupies the large livery stable once operated by Jacob Funk.

Tinley Park Dairy was located here prior to moving to larger facilities at 7050 171st Street now occupied by Country Lane Foods. The owners, Rudy Freiberg and Van Voltenberg built twin homes on 171st Street near the dairy site. The business was sold to Blue Island Sanitary Dairy and was then known as Blue Island/Tinley Park Dairy. Under its different

GLOGOWARTZ FARM

17150 Oak Park Avenue

Around 1866 an immigrant from Canada, Peter McClary, acquired farm land and built this house. In 1870 Thomas Glogowartz, an immigrant from Germany, purchased it. In 1906 an addition was added on the front. A natural spring provided water for the family. Having survived nearly unchanged, it provides a good idea of a late 19th century farm. It still remains in the Glogowartz family.

This residence received the Society's Historical Preservation Award in 1987.

BARTELS WINDMILL

17055 Oak Park Avenue

In 1872 George Bartels, an immigrant from northern Germany, built near this site a Holland-style mill at a cost of \$10,000. It was over 100 feet tall, with six levels and four arms each spanning 75 feet long. Dependent on wind power, when a strong wind blew, the millers worked day and night. It served the needs of the area's farmers for some twenty years, helping to make New Bremen a major supplier of flour for the Chicago market. After 1893 it ceased to be used and fell into disrepair. Artists came from Chicago to paint this impressive structure, towering above the grain fields. Because of its deteriorating condition it was torn down in 1911 by James Moss. Much of the materials were reused to construct a home for Mr. Hans Hartman on this site. Several of the millstone segments have been found and are displayed at The Landmark. The Landmark Museum has a scale replica of the mill made by David Fulton, while he was a student at Tinley Park High School. Today most of the mill site is occupied by a White Hen Pantry convenience store.

THE PARKSIDE DEVELOPMENT

East of Oak Park Avenue between 167th and 171st Streets

In 1947 the A.A. Lewis Realty acquired farmland east of Oak Park Avenue and platted the first major, planned subdivision in the community. This became the Parkside Development, attracting young families from Chicago. The subdivision was similar in design to the famous "Levittown" development in New York that was started a few years earlier. The houses were built swiftly and inexpensively and sold for about \$6,000. Rose M. Brown, a former Mayor of Tinley Park observed, "they were built in such a fashion, that if a person went home a little bit inebriated, he could go into the wrong house because they were nearly all alike." Paying for an adequate sewer system became a major political issue within the village. Mr. Lewis went bankrupt and was later killed in the Elektra Airplane crash in New York City.

MEMORIAL PARK

171st Street, East of 67th Court, West of Bert Fulton School

In 1945 the Tinley Park Recreation Commission developed a park on land acquired from Edward Schmidt, a relative to the owners of Goebel's Pop Factory. The downpayment was provided by Henry J. and Ruth Bettenhausen. They were repaid through the Fall Festival Commission. The park was named to honor citizens of Tinley Park who had served their country in the two World Wars. Further east, land was acquired from the Vogt family for a school and a park.

Tinley Park Bottling Works

In the year of 1889 Mr. Herman Stockman of Tinley Park, known as Bremen then, started a soda water bottling plant here. Mr. Stockman continued his business for (6) years, then sold it in the year 1895 to Mr. Philip Mager.

Mr. Mager moved the equipment to a new building on the rear of the lot where his home was located at 6724 North Street in Tinley Park. He kept the business for (6) years, then sold it to Fred Wilke in 1901.

Mr. Wilke moved the equipment into the basement of the James Fulton residence which at the time was owned by Mrs Marie Bettenhausen mother of Mrs Fulton.

Mr. Wilke continued with the soda water business at this address 6811 South Street with the help of his daughter for little over (2) years.

Then in the year 1903 he sold it to Fred Blume, a young man living with his folks just a few miles South of Tinley Park. Mr. Blume kept the business until September 26, 1905 when he sold it to Mr. Carl Goebel, which was born and raised in Tinley Park, but had moved to another locality for a few years.

Mr. Goebel purchased (6) acres of land at 175th street and Oak Park Avenue and continued the soda water bottling plant at that location with the help of his sons Fred, August, and Henry. Today that land is occupied by the Bremen Bank & Trust Company and Bettenhausen Motors.

At that time Mr. Goebel put up a new building for the plant and enlarged it again in 1913.

Mr. Carl Goebel and son Fred remains in the business (34) years when upon the death of Carl, it was continued for (3) years with Mary Goebel, wife of Carl Goebel and her (2) sons Fred and Henry.

In 1943 Fred sold out to his brother Henry who operated the plant until his retirement.

After Fred Goebel left the bottling business he became an insurance broker. He was also the treasure for the district school board for many years, and through out his life was an active member of the Lutheran church. His wife Martha still resides in Tinley Park.

The Service Bakery, Inc.,

The Service Bakery, Inc., is a very active establishment operating at full capacity to keep hundreds of customers and many stores supplied with their product. A big fleet of delivery trucks speeds the fresh bakery goods to the consumers every day except Sundays and holidays.

The bakery was first started by William Goeb in the Hollstein Building. Next William Timmermann operated it for a while, then Charles Hollwedel.

Mr. Hercourt took over next and the name was changed from the Tinley Park Bakery to The Service Bakery, Inc. In 1940 Fred Fremder took over the business and has been operating it since.

Goodall Aero Factory

A building erected at Ridgeland and Oak Forest Avenue , was originally the Spiral Washing Machine factory. In 1917 the building became the Goodall Aero Company factory. Also an additional 100 acres was purchased adjoining the building intended to be used as a training field for pilots.

One plane was built and managed to remain aloft for about 100 feet. The plane's crash ended the Aero Company venture.

The damaged plane was stored in Henry Vogt's barn. Later a man asked for the plane and as a token made Henry Vogt a small model of the plane. Pilots have said that the reason that it crashed was that the wings were too short.

The Ironite Company

John Rauhoff was a firm believer in his right to be an uncommon man. He took the calculated risk; to dream and to build. He had many improvements in the machinery field that he can take credit for. One of his inventions was a waterproof compound which he called "Ironite" because he used iron filings as a base.

The Ironite Company flourished for some twenty years. Mr. Rauhoff constructed a mill in 1907, on a 2 1/2 acre plot on the spur of the Rock Island tracks at the foot of 69th Avenue.

This factory gave Tinley Park one of its major industries at the time. Much Ironite was shipped from here. Many buildings with deep sub-basements still attest to having Ironite compound as a reason for having dry basements, because of this compound being used. Many of the Chicago Loop buildings have used this process. The results was a good dry basement.

Ironite was a compound composed of iron ground to the consistency of face powder to that of sand.

Scheer Block Company

The Scheer Block Company was founded by Valentine Scheer. The business was located just south of his home at 17368 68th Court. Scheer Block manufactured concrete blocks for the use in construction.

Their most famous block looked like rough hewn stone. This block was used extensively for foundations and other buildings in early Tinley Park homes. This product was later available from a company in Joliet. Due to this Mr. Scheer soon closed his place of business.

John G. Poorman

A local enterprise which has carried the name of Tinley Park throughout the country, and into foreign countries is that of John G. Poorman, a manufacturer of poultry products, such as brooders, starting batteries, broiler batteries, feather boards, laying batteries and many other items. This company employs a number of men.

John Poorman, the son of a Cincinnati bicycle manufacturer, worked his way up to become a self-made man. One of Tinley Park's more wealthier citizens of the 1930's and 40's.

His fortune was mainly derived from the development and invention of a feather brooder for baby chicks, which was constructed by using inverted feather dusters and electric light bulbs. This type of brooder kept baby chick's warm and off the ground. This also gives the chick's a contented feeling of sitting under the mother hen.

The Poorman Poultry Company first started at 147th and Oak Park Avenue. The Poorman's moved from this location to their new site at the Harper's Hill Crossing. The family lived on the first floor and the business was operated from the basement, which was under extremely sanitary conditions.

Constructed with 18 inch thick brick walls for both safety and coolness. The building still stands next to the Rock Island tracks, across from the frozen food locker.

The Poorman mail order business was one of the largest in the country at the time. Baby chick's were shipped throughout the country.

Mr Poorman could be seen about every morning at the Rock Island station shipping out a load of chick's. Mr Poorman was a friend to many. Known to his friends as "J.G.", he and his wife lived in Tinley Park until his health started failing, at which time they moved to California. Shortly there after his health gave and soon his widow moved back to Tinley Park.

The Tinley Park Dairy

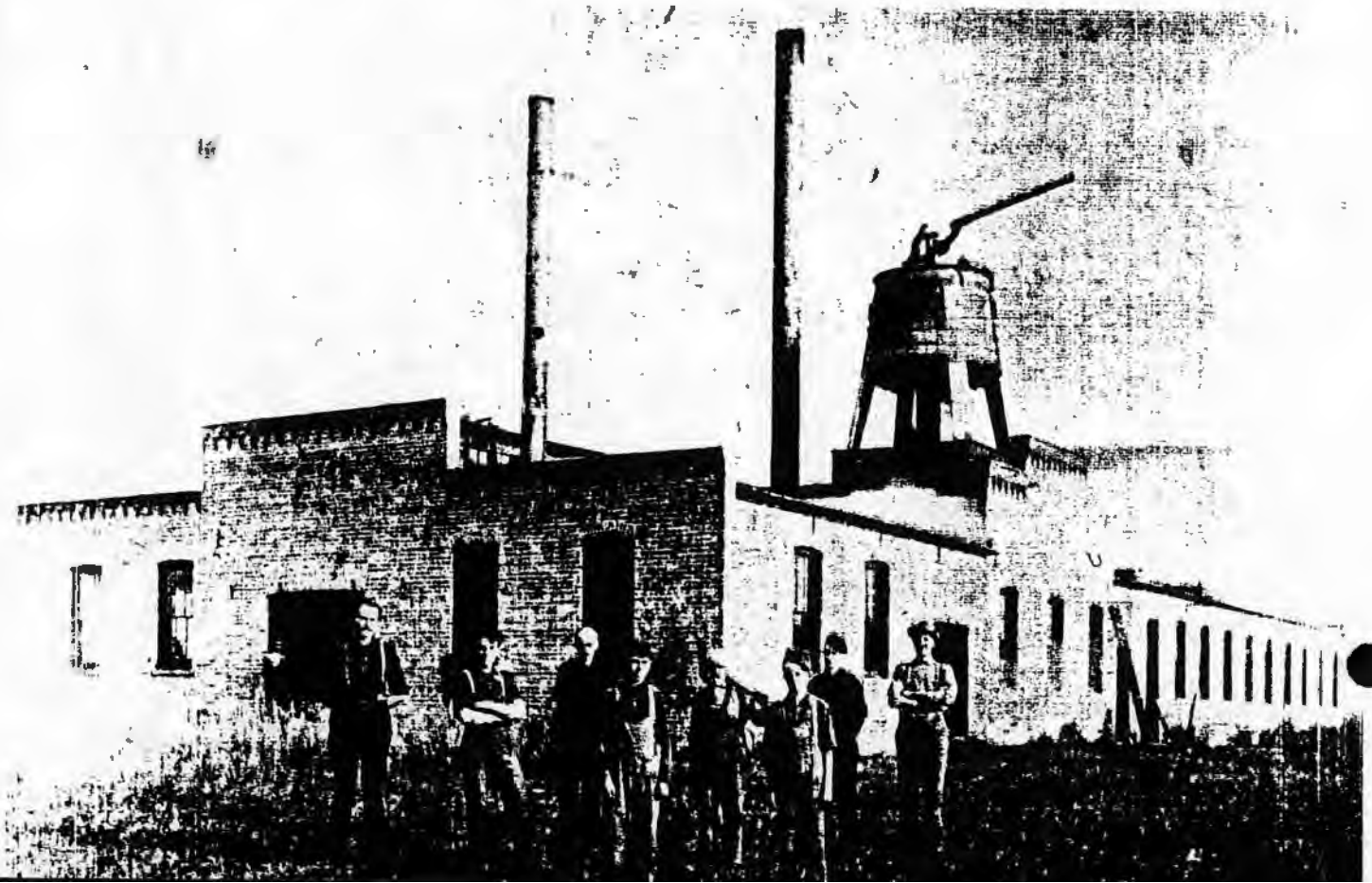
The Tinley Park Dairy Employed the most men of any of the local enterprises at the time. This group first started a dairy in the livery of Wm. Funk and when they outgrew their quarters they erected a fine brick building located at the northwest edge of the village. They had a fleet of trucks making deliveries in adjoining towns. They also sold a big volume of milk in the Chicago area.

First Factory Built In 1904

In 1904 a boom struck the village when the Diamond Spiral Manufacturing Company was organized, and a factory was built on the southeast edge of the village at the southwest corner of Ridgeland and Oak Forest Ave. where the Diamond Spiral Washing Machine was manufactured. The concern was capitalized for \$250,000. The factory was built at a cost of \$12,000. Their slogan was there should be a diamond in every woman's life, meaning a Diamond Spiral Washing Machine.

John Rauhoff took credit for inventing the Spiral washing machine among many of his credits.

After a few years operation the factory went out of business, and later used as an airplane factory.



North American Mushroom Company

The North American Mushroom Company was organized August, 1935, as a corporation under the direction of Joseph Magiera. An abandon factory -at one time a creosote treating plant- located on Ridgeland and Oak Forest Avenue in Tinley Park attracted the corporation as a suitable site for it's operations.

Completely remodeled and enlarged the building was soon ready for use as a hothouse for raising mushrooms for the commercial market. In January of the next year the first crop was harvested. Later in the year another building was added to make a total of (3) buildings to serve as hothouses capable of producing (30) tons of mushrooms in one growing season.

February, 1939 brought the related business of canning to Tinley Park -the product - Mushrooms packed in Steak Sauce. Since the mushroom company has brought out this product its it's business has steadily grown and increased year by year. By using modern canning methods over (3) million cans were processed in the 1944 growing season.

The demand for mushrooms in steak sauce brought the need for a larger processing plant.

Bruske Products

The Bruske Products plant in Tinley Park was started a mere 20 years ago, by Mr. Ed Bruske. After working his way up from a door to door salesman to Midwest manager for sales of another company's industrial brush business, he decided to quit and start his own.

Bruske had dreamed of one day starting his own business and he grabbed this opportunity to do so. Bruske had conceived the idea of a new kind of industrial brush and he wanted to produce it sometime. He named it the Bruske Brush.

Starting out in a small shop in downtown Tinley the business grew to where he had to have more room. After about ten years he purchased a track of land on Duvan Drive in Tinley and started enlarging his business.

The first month that he was in business the sales were \$87. This year the company is expected to go above the \$8 million mark.

The advantage of the Bruske brush is that it is supported with metal instead of wood. Today in 1992 the staff includes 50 sales people and its office and plant staff numbers 104.

P I C O
Chemical Corporation

Pico chemical corporation, a privately owned business incorporated in 1976, is a progressive manufacturer of innovative, high quality specialty chemicals and lubricants for industry.

Pico corporation, headquartered in Tinley Park, Illinois, has built a solid reputation and record of technical achievement and marketplace throughout the United States and abroad.

Pico corporation has developed years of knowledgeable working experience, strong management, advanced technical support, financial stability and customer confidence. Pico is dedicated to providing consistent quality, performance, service and integrity in our products.

Pico products are used for cleaning, lubricating, processing, treating and conditing of critical and noncritical production and maintenance industrial applications.

Industries served are to numerous to mention.

Panduit

Panduit was established in 1955. It was started in a garage, until it grew to the point where it had to find a bigger location. That was when it moved to its present location.

Panduit has grown to a commanding leadership position in industry. Panduit is a leading manufacturer of wiring and communications products. Today with sales of over \$200 million, and employing over 2,000 people world wide. The company now occupies more than one million square feet of facilities. Panduit has expanded to five additional U.S. locations, as well as plants and sales throughout the world.

Panduits location is 17301 Ridgeland Avenue.